US releases first photos of Saddam sons' bodies

Story in The World, Page A12

GMA rating: 'A for effort, B-- for performance'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Gil C. Cabacungan

"A FOR effort, B minus for performance."

This was the rating that the chair of a congressional oversight committee gave President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign against crime and corruption.

At a briefing in Malacañang yesterday,

GMA/ A11

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Friday, July 25, 2003 ★★★ 80 pages / 9 sections / vol. 18 / no. 227 P15
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EDWIN BACASMAS

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF mixes it up with the officers and men of the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment in a "boodle fight" during turnover rites of its commanding officer, Brig. Gen. Gabriel Ledesma, to his deputy, Col. Danilo Lim, at Camp Tecson, San Miguel, Bulacan. It was to Camp Tecson that the 21 Scout Rangers from Mindanao suspected of "unusual movements" were brought upon their arrival aboard the Superferry 2 on Wednesday night.

Al-Ghozi guard secured

Palmares put under Palace protection

By Christian V. Esguerra and Gerald Lacuarta

WITH HIS lawyers saying his life was at risk, rookie policeman Ronald Palmares was transferred yesterday to the custody of the Malacañang-formed body investigating the escape of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

The policeman will be transferred to a safe house where his lawyers want him to stay until the investigation is completed, said Victor Guerrero, one of five lawyers from the Public Attorney's Office acting as his counsel.

Guerrero said the lawyers would also ask the Department of Justice to place Palmares under its Witness Protection Program.

"If the conspiracy angle is true," the lawyer told the INQUIRER, "then Ronald's life is indeed in danger."

"It is likely that those who made the terrorists escape would silence him because his statement is very different from those of the other suspects."

Guerrero said the officer's life could be in grave danger after he accused top officials of the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group of conspiring to free Al-Ghozi and Abu Sayyaf members Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal.

The Palace probe, headed by former Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez, placed Palmares first in the safekeeping of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Most police officials had complied with the President's gag order on the case, but the Department of Foreign Affairs was hard-pressed yesterday to explain Foreign Secretary Blas Ople's statement the other day in Bali, Indonesia, that the Philippine National Police would recapture Al-Ghozi within three days.

"Maybe he was misquoted," said DFA spokesperson Julia Heidemann. Or Ople may have been misinterpreted or even fed a leading question by the foreign

AL-GHOZI/ A17

GMA: I'm assured of officers' absolute fealty

By Gil Cabacungan Jr., Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is unperturbed by the coup rumors, but yesterday she saw fit to urge the public to "remain calm amid these rumors of destabilization."

In a speech before the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment (SRR) in San Miguel, Bulacan, the President said: "The [Armed Forces] chief of staff is on top of the situation and there is no cause for alarm. [The] representatives [of the restive young officers] assured me of their absolute fealty to the chain of command."

She acknowledged the "legitimate grievances" of the young officers and said these were being addressed. "I do not blame the young officers for pushing for internal reforms, and the expression of their grievances has been proper and lawful," she added.

But Sen. Rodolfo Biazon chided Malacañang and the Department of National Defense for supposedly "fanning the coup rumors" by their "actions and pronouncements."

Biazon said the rumors were further aggravated by military movements all over the country.

"Is this a very clear indication of the instability that is affecting the minds of the people, or is the President losing control of her men?" asked the opposition senator and vice chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security.

The coup rumors were believed to have caused the peso to fall to a four-month low against the dollar on Wednesday, when it closed at 54.025 to the greenback.

GMA/ A18

Simple dinner by 16 'mistahs' triggered coup talk

By Joselle R. Badilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—It all started with a simple dinner, in the house of an officer who belonged to Class '95 of the Philippine Military Academy. The coup rumors spawned that night led to a 100-seat dinner with President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday evening.

According to sources, including one who was present in all meetings, the first dinner was held somewhere in Quezon City on July 11. Only 16 officers, mostly "GHQ boys," were present, enjoying simple food and beverages prepared by fellow "mistahs." The group discussed various topics involving military officers.

The second meeting took place on July 16, and almost 60 attended. The venue: the AFP Commissioned Officers Club, some 250 meters away from the general headquarters building.

A senior official was said to be present during the meeting, which lasted from 8 to 11 p.m.

The members of the class presented various concerns, including continuing graft and corruption inside the military system and the alleged micromanagement style of the defense secretary.

"The class was only voicing out that we need some changes, primarily in the (matter of the) corruption of senior officers. Most of them are left untouched," a class member told the INQUIRER.

Also discussed in the meeting was the situation of Navy Lt. Antonio Fuentes Trillanes IV, who had received threats

SIMPLE/ A18

ROGER MARGALLO

FATHER OF THE BRIDES. Tycoon John Gokongwei leaves the country on Thursday but not before he's subjected to a body search at the Naia before boarding his PAL flight for Honolulu where his daughters Lisa and Faith are to be married to Berck Cheng and Abenson scion Winston Lim, respectively.

Wife wins over ma-in-law in cremation case

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VILLASIS, Pangasinan—Twenty-three days after he was killed in action in Compostela Valley, a court has ruled that the remains of Army Capt. Peter James Angeles should be cremated after it dismissed the petition of his mother to bury his body.

Judge Manuel Pastor Jr. of the Villasis RTC dismissed the petition of Josie Angeles and ruled that the "decision on the form of funeral for the late Peter James rests upon his surviving spouse—respondent Claudine Marie Angeles."

The decision was promulgated Tuesday but was released only on Wednesday afternoon because of power failure in this town due to typhoon "Harurot."

But the cremation would have to wait as the court gave Josie 15 days to file an appeal.

WIFE/ A18

MAHIRAP AKONG MAG TNT!

Elephants are illegal aliens?

By Jerome Aning

THESE elephants are illegal aliens.

And the Bureau of Customs has given their maintainer, Uniprom Inc., until Sunday to settle P1.2 million in export duties and other taxes and penalties to legalize their stay.

The 10 elephants, from the Thatoom district in Surin, Thailand, are being used for circus exhibitions at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City.

The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) took up their case after one of them, Jumbo, broke free of its confines on May 8 and roamed the streets until it was cornered in the Kamuning area. Only after many hours, a massive traffic jam and a bungled hoisting by crane that resulted in a dangerous

ELEPHANTS/ A17

How to catch the rich and infamous at DPWH

By Armand N. Nocum

THE LIFESTYLE check that the Office of the Ombudsman is conducting on government officials is designed to catch grafters while they enjoy their mansions and luxury cars.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo also disclosed that his office was looking into the lifestyles of 10 ranking officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways apart from their counterparts in the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

"You do surveillance and have someone (in government) testify, so you won't rely on neighbors and security guards," Marcelo said. In some cases, he said, neighbors and guards backed out as witnesses either because of fear or because they were bribed.

He said catching grafters depended on "common use" of the ill-gotten wealth.

"In the case of mansions or luxury vehicles, you must establish that he has effective use, and that he is the beneficial owner of the property," Marcelo said.

He said this was the only way the government could catch officials, who are known to put their expensive assets in the names of their relatives.

HOW/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/25/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

SENATE COMPENSATION PLAN

Marcos loot sharing eyed

By Michael Lim Ubac

DESPITE disagreements over how the P38 billion in confiscated Marcos ill-gotten wealth should be divvied up, the Senate justice and human rights committee is finalizing a compensation plan for the victims of rights abuses during martial law.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said his committee was "in the process of fine-tuning a compensation scheme that would rationalize the distribution of the Marcos money among the claimants."

The plan forms part of Senate Bill 1877, which allocates P10 billion of the estimated P38 billion currently in an escrow account to indemnify the 10,000 human rights victims during martial law as ordered by a Hawaii federal court.

Under the payment scheme, compensation shall be fixed and uniform for all qualified claimants according to their degree of suffering, he said.

Victims of involuntary disappearance will get more than victims of summary execution, while those who were illegally detained and tortured would be compensated based on length of detention, injuries suffered and methods of torture used on them, he said.

Pangilinan said the scheme would ensure a "fool-proof implementation of the compensation program lest we turn this into a political circus and end up aggravating the victims."

At the same time, Pangilinan expressed dismay over efforts of "some interest groups" to take control of the escrow account.

"It seems everyone wants a share of the big pie. I am sorry to cut their daydreaming short but the victims of human rights under the Marcos regime rightfully deserve compensation," the administration senator said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said he was open to giving the human rights victims during martial law a share of the P38 billion in seized Marcos loot.

At a press conference yesterday, Drilon said he would push for amending the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law to give Marcos victims priority over other rights victims.

"Yes, we need a law. As a matter of policy, I think we should compensate only the victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime," he said.

"As to how much, I'm willing to listen to suggestions. I have not had a consensus among the senators on that point. I have no figure in mind."

Under the Agrarian Reform Law, any monies recovered from the Marcoses is to go toward the purchase of properties for poor tenant farmers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Drilon said President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted P8 million to go to the rights victims, but Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, through House Bill 4535, wanted P10 billion, of the P38 billion.

"Any amount at this point will be speculative and, therefore, I would listen (first) to the debates," Drilon said.

For his part, Sen. Joker Arroyo said the P10 billion was sufficient to indemnify the estimated 10,000 Marcos victims.

"A good number of those (who suffered under the Marcos regime) will not claim compensation," Arroyo said.

Many of the martial law victims, he said, just wanted to be part of the "historical record."

"So we don't know how many will really come out," he said, citing Vice President Teofisto Guingona who was jailed twice during martial law.

"I don't think he will seek any compensation," he added. *With Carlito Pablo, Manila, and Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

More countries warn citizens vs travel to RP

THREE more countries warned their citizens yesterday of the risks of travel to the Philippines due to increased terror threats.

Canada, New Zealand and Britain asked their citizens not to travel to parts of the country, particularly the south, where kidnappings, bombings and armed attacks have occurred.

The advisories follow similar warnings by the United States and Australia. The US State Department last week mentioned a July 14 jailbreak by three terror suspects with alleged links to the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiya. The other countries did not refer to the incident in their advisories.

Julia Heidemann, spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs, said the government has informed the countries of "our displeasure" over the travel warnings.

Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, in an advisory posted on its Web site, asked Canadians not to travel to the Sulu archipelago and eight other provinces and four cities in the southern Philippines.

"Canadians traveling throughout the Philippines should be vigilant and maintain a high level of security awareness due to the continuous threat of kidnappings, bombings and other violent incidents," the advisory said. "Heightened tensions throughout the region, together with increased threats globally from terrorism, put Canadians at greater risk."

New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade cautioned its nationals to avoid travel Mindanao as well as Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi islands. It said New Zealanders traveling through the Philippines, including Manila, should exercise "extreme caution and be alert to the dangers of kidnapping."

Britain, too, advised its citizens to remain vigilant throughout the Philippines "for spontaneous crime driven by poverty, and for serious crime including terrorism and kidnapping, by organized gangs or extremists."

"We believe there is a greater risk of terrorist activity throughout the Philippines at the present time," it said. *AP*

News reporters, editors vulnerable to trauma, too

By Blanche S. Rivera

NEWS reporters and editors may soon be classified among "vulnerable groups and special population" threatened by mental stress, joining battered women and children.

The Philippine Psychiatric Association said media practitioners exhibited signs of post-traumatic stress syndrome especially after the coverage of big stories.

PPA treasurer Sonia Rodriguez noted that events like the Iraq war, Nida Blanca's murder and Teresa Carlson's suicide routinely took their toll on media practitioners.

Rodriguez explained that "traumatic" meant the person believed the same thing could happen to him.

Media practitioners, policemen, psychiatrists and other persons "in situations with a high degree of unpredictability" are high-risk sectors, the PPA official said.

Older media practitioners are more prone to post-traumatic stress syndrome, Rodriguez added. She lamented that many of them were not open-minded about seeking professional help.

"We're faced with situations that are way beyond the coping mechanisms of an ordinary person," said Rodriguez, who is also president of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists of the Philippines Inc.

The PPA and the drug company Pfizer conducted a stress debriefing workshop for media people at the Edsa Shangri-La yesterday. The workshop was meant to raise the awareness of reporters, editors and cameramen of their need for processing and therapy.

According to Rodriguez, a common mistake among media practitioners is to go to physicians for gastro-intestinal problems, insomnia, nightmares, and cold, clammy hands, which are "actually symptoms of post-traumatic stress."

This could ultimately lead to chronic fatigue syndrome or psychosis, she warned.

It was "very important" for field reporters to have a strong support system and nurturing relationships, Rodriguez stressed. "They have to have life outside work. They need friends."

Rodriguez urged news organizations to put in place debriefing guidelines for reportorial teams after traumatic coverages. She said psychiatric help should be part of media organizations' administrative services, at least for field employees.

After the 1991 earthquake, Rodriguez recalled, the Aquino administration formed a task force made up of psychiatrists to counsel the victims, as well as the media people who covered the disaster.

GMA lauds int'l support for peace talks

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday welcomed "snowballing international support" for its peace process with Muslim separatists, especially from Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim nation.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said "the confluence of favorable global, regional and domestic conditions" has boosted peace prospects with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has been waging almost three decades of rebellion in Mindanao.

On Wednesday, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda congratulated the Philippines for its ceasefire agreement with the MILF and offered Jakarta's full support for the peace process, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said.

British Minister of State Mike O'Brien also expressed his country's support for the peace process, Ople said.

Ople met Wirayuda and O'Brien at the sidelines of an Asia-Europe foreign ministers' meeting on the Indonesian island resort of Bali.

"I am glad to acknowledge the snowballing international support for the peace process, especially from Indonesia, the largest Muslim nation in the world," the President said in a statement. *AP*

Random drug tests in schools start soon

EDUCATION authorities will begin conducting random drug tests in all high schools, colleges and universities nationwide, beginning in August.

Parents would be notified before any tests are undertaken and results will be kept confidential, Education Undersecretary Jose Luis Gascon said.

Should a student be found positive for illegal drugs, parents would be asked to transfer them to rehabilitation centers, Gascon said, as he sought to assure the public that individual rights would be respected.

"Through the drug testing program, we will be able to lower the drug use (in the country). This will become a deterrent for a person to keep using illegal drugs," Gascon said.

The Department of Education has set this target for the implementation of the controversial drug testing policy after President Macapagal-Arroyo issued orders for it to do so last week.

The President told DepEd officials to wrap up their discussions of the drug-testing guidelines as soon as possible.

The Dangerous Drugs Board is expected this week to finalize the guidelines which authorities have been working on since June. The guidelines are now on the ninth draft. *Dona Pazzibugan with a report from AFP*

ERRATUM

PUYAT VINYL PRODUCTS, INC. (PVPI) would like to correct an error contained in an article Published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on April 29,2003, which mistakenly name TUV Rheinland Philippines Ltd. as the company's ISO consultant. This erratum is therefore being Issued to correct that article. TUV Rheinland is the ISO Certifying Body of PVPI and NOT its ISO Consultant. ADVT.

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'Danding has money, but Ping can win'

By Philip C. Tubeza

BUSINESSMAN Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco may have the political machinery but Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson has the "winnability."

Former immigration commissioner Rufus Rodriguez said yesterday: "Danding will get the NPC (Nationalist People's Coalition) nod but then they will have to decide who is the most winnable of the candidates, and Lacson, as things are going now, is the most winnable between the two."

Addressing the Round Table press forum at the Manila Pavilion, Rodriguez said, "As spokesman of Senator Lacson, I can tell you his popularity, organization, ranking in the polls are increasing ... and ultimately when the LDP, PMP and NPC meet by September, we will have a united opposition candidate and that will be Senator Lacson."

Rodriguez predicted the NPC, which Cojuangco chairs, would sever its ties with the administration Lakas party in the People Power Coalition and join forces with the opposition Partido ng Masang Pilipino and Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino. He said Lacson already has the support of the PMP—the party of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

He said that while Sen. Edgardo Angara, LDP president, supports Cojuangco, most LDP officers and members are for Lacson.

He said Lacson will run for president only if he is the opposition's standard bearer. "I hope Ambassador Cojuangco will abide by the (results of the) selection (process) of the united opposition," he added, noting that Cojuangco had told his supporters in Pangasinan that "the opposition should have one candidate."

Rodriguez spelled out the opposition's plan this way: The PMP will deliver the votes of the masses, the supporters of Estrada; the LDP will provide the political machinery with its nationwide organization; while the NPC will provide logistical support.

"This will be the one-two-three punch that will wallop the [administration's] presidential bet," Rodriguez said.

He said the NPC will break away from the administration coalition because of the "harassment" Cojuangco received after announcing he was "testing the waters" for a possible run for the presidency next year.

CORRECTION

WILMER A. Alfonso is president and chief operating officer of WG&A SuperCommerce, Inc. (WSI) and not of William, Gothong & Aboitiz, Inc. (WG&A) as reported in the INQUIRER and INQUIRER Libre on Wednesday. The story was in connection with the launching of Libre at the passenger terminal at North Harbor.

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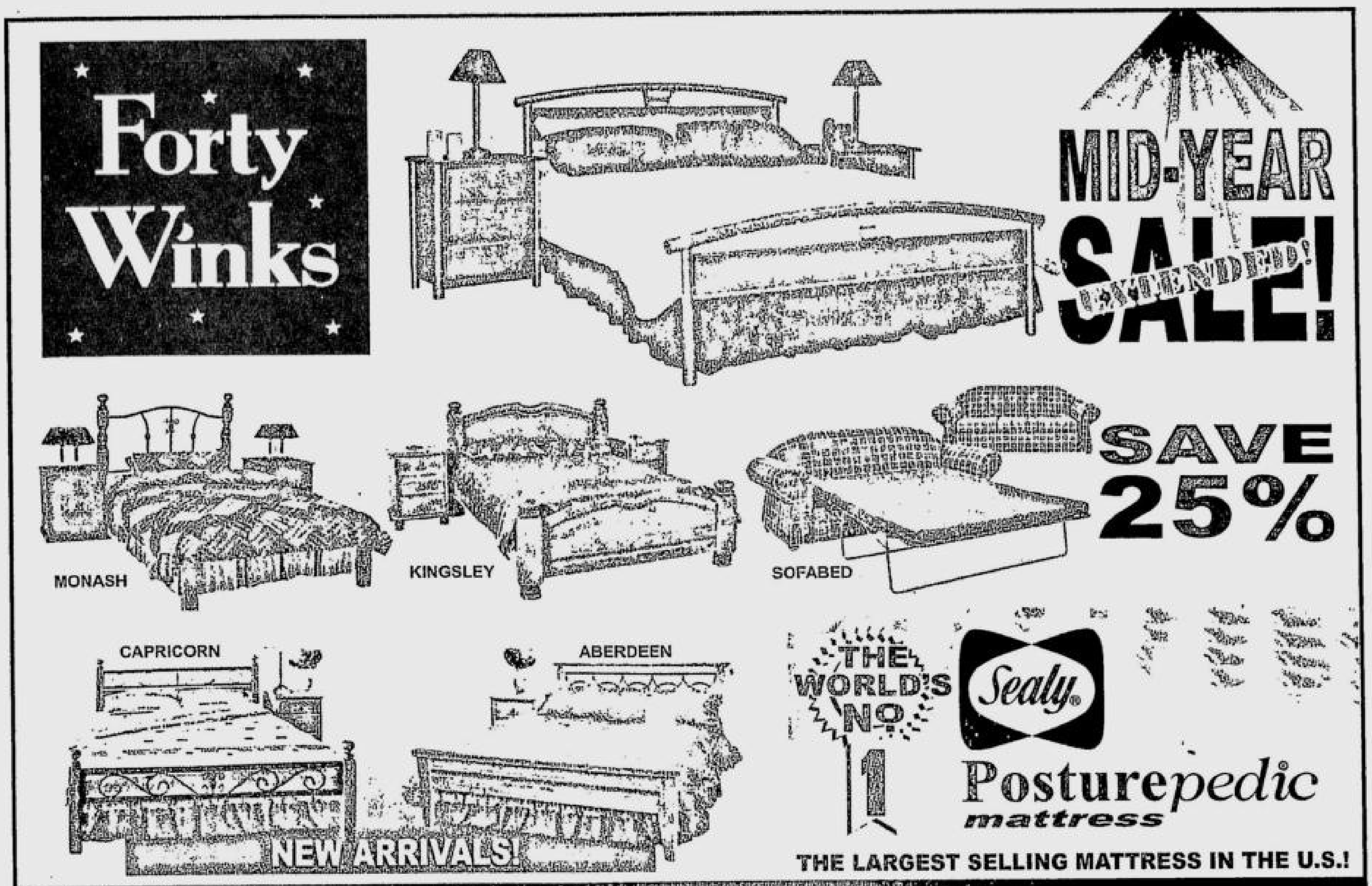

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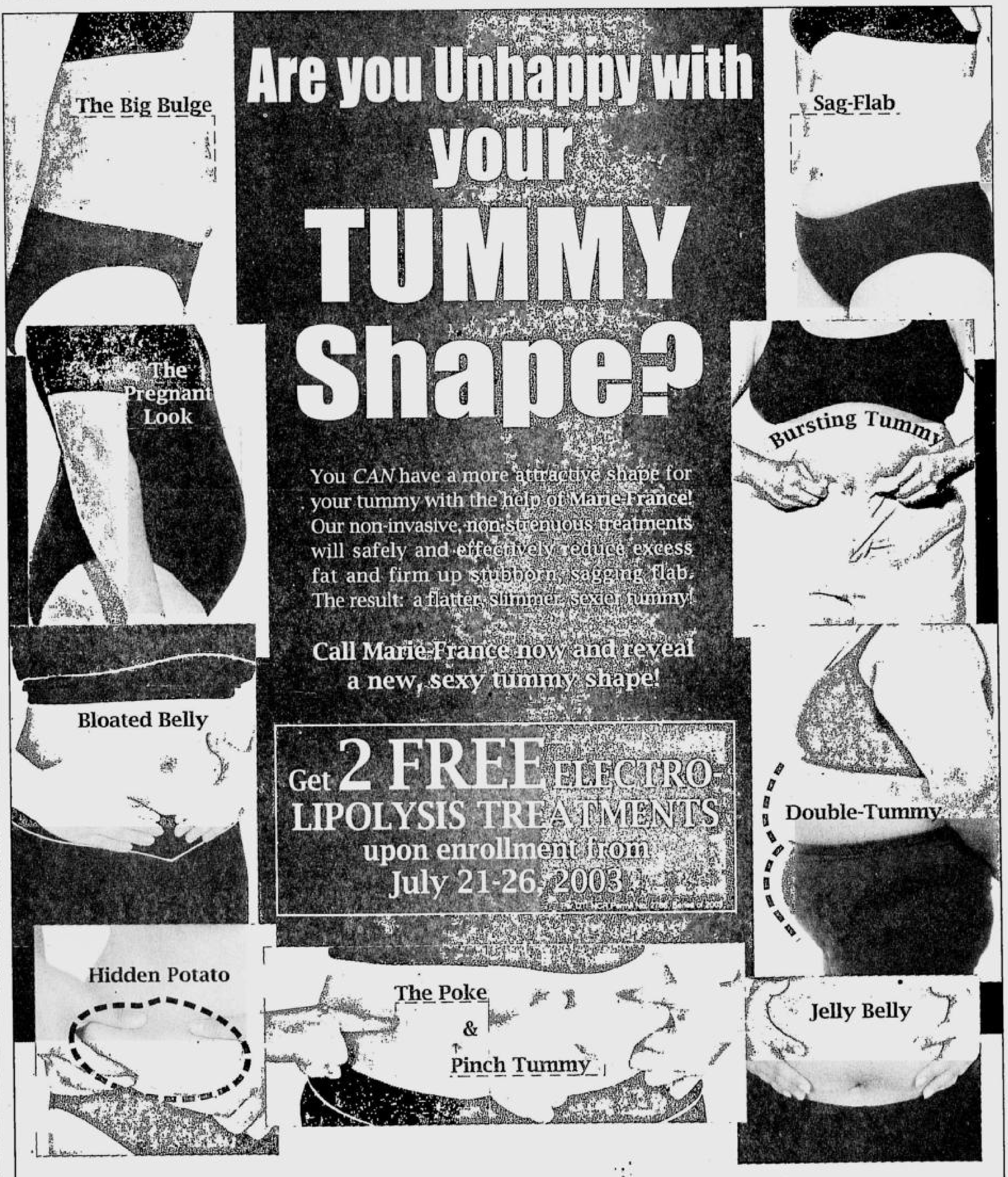

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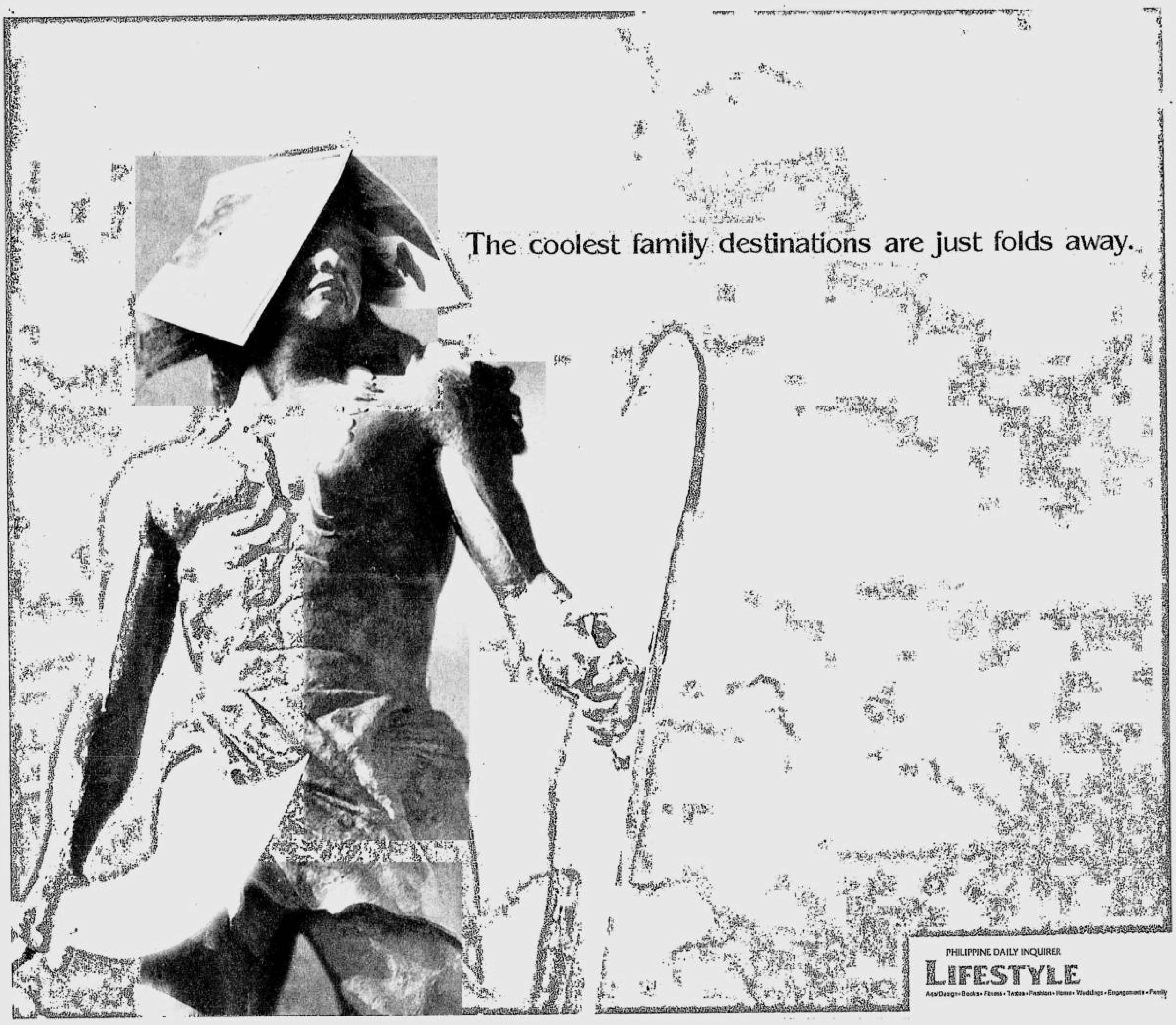
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- *Was a faculty member of the UE College of Business Administration from 1965 to 1969*
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Associate Justice Tinga is a former Managing Partner of the Tinga & Corvera Law Firm, the former Dean of the College of Law of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, a former Member of the Supreme Court's Bar Examinations Committee and was the Representative of the Taguig-Pateros district for three consecutive terms.

The University of the East will tender an invitational testimonial dinner in honor of Associate Justice Tinga on July 25, 2003, Friday, 6:30 p.m., at the Maynila Ballroom of the Manila Hotel.

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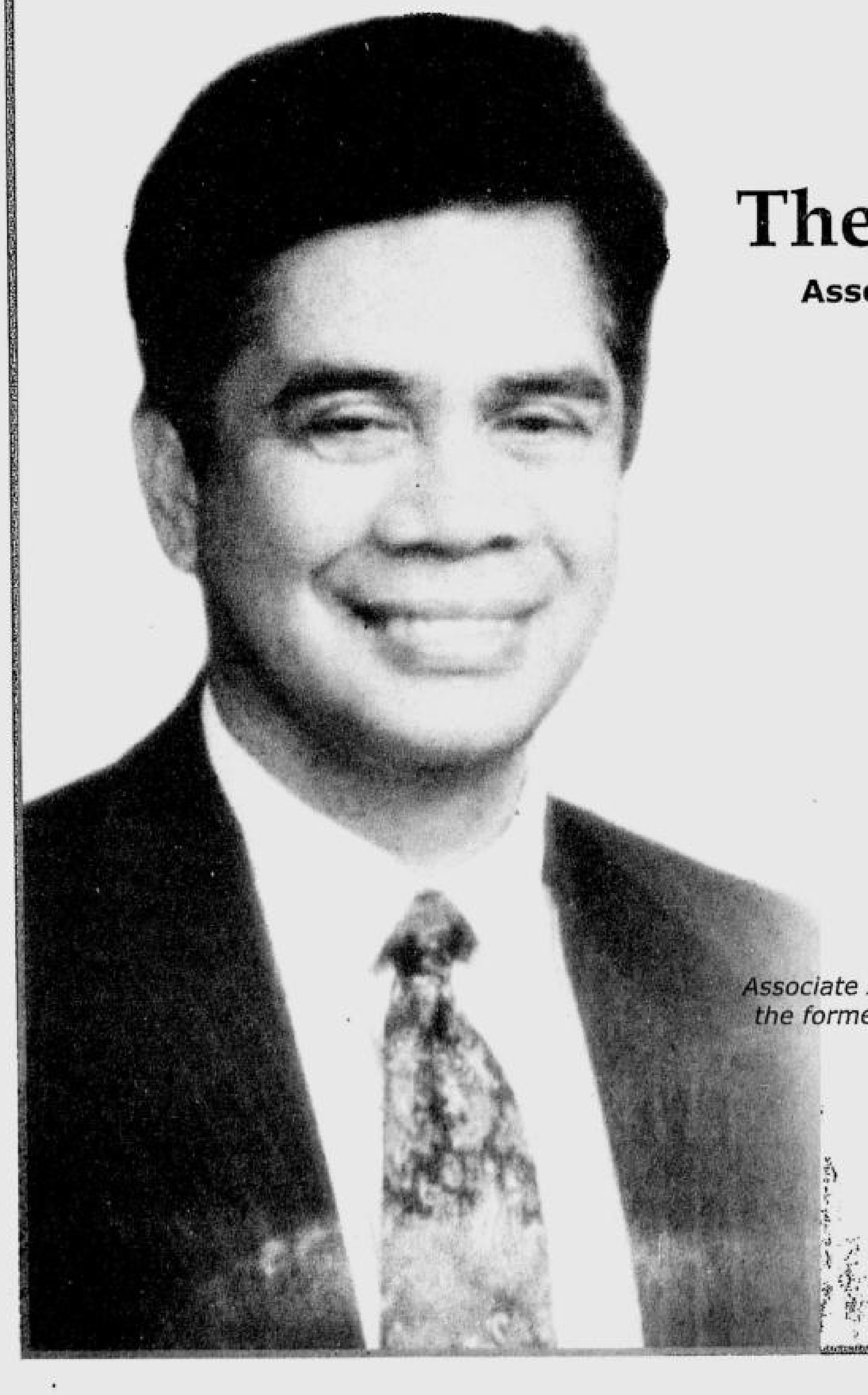

Atong Ang won't face death if extradited

By Philip C. Tubeza

EVEN if convicted of the capital offense of plunder, fugitive businessman Atong Ang will not get the death penalty.

The Philippine government is prepared to give this guarantee to ensure Ang's extradition from the United States, a Department of Justice official said yesterday.

Gabriel Enriquez, Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong's deputy chief of staff, said the US prosecutor in Ang's extradition case declared as much during the hearing on July 14, which a team of Philippine lawyers attended.

"The government's willingness to issue such an undertaking was shown by (Assistant US Attorney ad legal attaché) Jeffrey Cole, who presented the case before the federal district court of Nevada," Enriquez said.

Ang is under house arrest in Las Vegas. He is facing plunder charges before the Sandiganbayan, together with deposed President Joseph Estrada, for allegedly pocketing P130 million in tobacco excise taxes.

Citing the RP-US extradition agreement, Nevada Judge Lawrence Leavipp earlier said he would not send Ang back to the Philippines if there was a danger that the fugitive would be executed once convicted.

Under the agreement, the requesting country needs to issue a guarantee ruling out the death penalty before a suspect is extradited.

Enriquez, one of the Filipino lawyers who attended the July 14 proceedings, said he understood that a draft of the undertaking had already been forwarded to Malacañang for President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval.

He had not seen the draft, Enriquez said, but "no less than the legal attaché manifested the existence of that request." The undertaking should be forwarded to US authorities soon, he added, or it would "affect the speedy disposition of the case."

Enriquez shared Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño's optimism that Ang could be back in Manila as early as December.

DOJ officials earlier said the prosecution was able to present the "paper trail" proving that Ang pocketed the tobacco taxes.

Besides Zuño and Enriquez, government lawyers Dina Joy Tañala, Arno Sanidad and John Valisnoso helped Cole present vital documentary evidence.

Zuño earlier hinted that the government might consider Ang as a state witness against Estrada. As for placing the businessman under the Witness Protection Program, Enriquez said: "The DOJ will (first) have to weigh the circumstances and factors that might affect the outcome of the case."

Pro-Estrada witnesses won't come out yet

By Volt Contreras and Armand N. Nocum

MANY potential defense witnesses in the plunder case against jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada are reluctant to testify because they think "now is not yet the right time" to come out, according to one of Estrada's court-appointed lawyers.

"They are wavering, though not exactly. saying no, because they think they would rather come out under another dispensation," lawyer Noel Malaya said yesterday.

"They are afraid they might just get undue banishment," the lawyer claimed.

Still, the defense has been able to round up some "10 solid witnesses" who have no such fears, said Malaya.

He declined to identify the witnesses, describing them only as not among the names who figured in the Senate blue ribbon committee hearings on the gambling payola scandal that led to the impeachment and eventual ouster of Estrada.

Not having a long list of witnesses, Malaya said the initial defense move would be the presentation of "documentary evidence."

The special Sandiganbayan division has set for July 28, the start of Estrada's defense.

But Malaya said defense lawyers would again move for a postponement because of some pending defense motions.

Government special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio meanwhile said he was suspicious of a motion from another court-appointed lawyer, Prospero Crescini, to withdraw from Estrada's defense team.

The prosecutor said the move may be yet another ploy to delay the trial and claim that Estrada was not being given the chance to defend himself in the plunder case.

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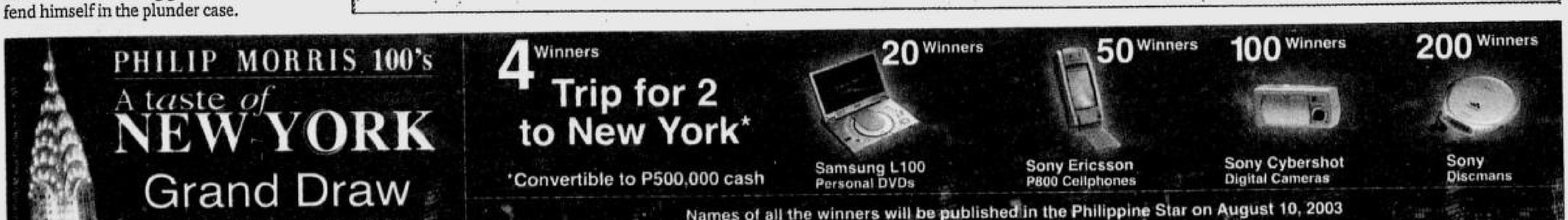
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SARS still in the air; recurrence in November feared

By Blanche S. Rivera

SARS is still "in the air."

The Department of Health is monitoring the status of an overseas Filipino worker from Taiwan suspected of having contracted Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

Consorcia Lim-Quizon, spokesperson for SARS cases, said the DOH continued to be on heightened alert amid speculations of a possible recurrence in November, on account of conducive weather conditions.

Another OFW from Hong Kong identified only as "MS" was suspected of having contracted SARS but expired due to congestive heart failure the other day.

MS, 25, arrived in Manila on July 6 and developed a cough one week later. She sought medical help at the East Avenue Medical Center on July 23 when she was already "unstable," the DOH said. She died of heart failure at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, at 1:05 p.m. on Wednesday.

"MT," the 42-year-old caregiver from Taiwan, will undergo a repeat x-ray procedure in three days. The first procedure showed that she was suffering from an acute respiratory infection. She is under observation at the Eastern Visayas Medical Center in Tacloban City.

"What this proves is that the index of suspicion is still high," Quizon said in a press briefing. "We have to continue to be vigilant."

She said the government was "not discounting the fact that there could still be virus in the air."

SARS alert up again at NAIA

By Jerome Aning

MANILA International Airport Authority general manager Edgardo Manda yesterday said he was raising an alert level for SARS at the country's international airports following the death of an overseas Filipino worker from Taiwan suspected of having the dreaded pneumonia-like killer disease.

Manda said that monitoring for SARS at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, which has been scaled down following the country's removal from the World Health Organization's SARS list, would be "re-intensified."

"We're doing this just to make sure; anyway, this is a good drill for us," Manda told the INQUIRER over the phone.

Manda said he has ordered thermal scanning devices, which detect body temperatures, installed in the NAIA's international arrival areas. Quarantine and other airport personnel are expected to be donning again face masks to protect themselves.

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'Harurot' leaves 21 dead, P1B in crop damage

TYPHOON "Harurot" killed 21 people and destroyed about P1.09 billion worth of crops in the country this week, officials said Thursday.

The typhoon, which blew out of the country on Wednesday, left 10 people dead in the northern and central Philippines and killed 11 people in Mindanao, according to a tally from several officials.

The typhoon also caused P258.93 million in damage to infrastructure and P51.5 million in damage to livestock, the civil defense office said in a statement.

More than 11,400 people remained in government evacuation centers Thursday, with flooding reported in parts of 20 towns in the north, the statement said. Power supply was still out in large areas of the region.

The storm is now heading to southern China after brushing past Hong Kong.

In Isabela, President Macapagal-Arroyo promised the immediate release of P35 million to help rehabilitate farms and infrastructure destroyed by "Harurot" in Cagayan Valley.

The President, who arrived in Ilagan after 2 p.m. yesterday, said the government would give P25,000 each to families whose houses were destroyed by the typhoon. She instructed the regional Department of Social Welfare and Development office to validate the homeowners' claims.

At least 14 people were killed in typhoon-related incidents in Cagayan Valley, Cordillera, the Ilocos and Nueva Ecija as the respective regional disaster coordinating councils started receiving reports on Thursday.

Most of the fatalities had drowned or were electrocuted, the reports said.

Ms Macapagal promised to order the immediate rehabilitation of damaged power and communication lines in the region.

Cagayan Valley officials said they would need more than P84 million to rehabilitate typhoon-affected areas. Local governments in Isabela, Cagayan, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya have set aside P21.5 million, while the region's congressmen have allotted P25.65 million from their Priority Development Assistance Fund or pork barrel to finance rehabilitation efforts.

Isabela Vice Gov. Santiago Respicio said the province lost P613.69 million worth of crops and livestock and P46.37 million in infrastructure.

Cagayan Gov. Edgar Lara said his province lost P253 million in crops and infrastructure, while Gov. Pedro Bacani said Quirino lost P212 million in crops.

The Department of Public Works and Highways said "Harurot" caused P34.72 million worth of damage to government infrastructure in Regions I, II, V and the Cordillera Autonomous Region. *AFP; With Villamor Visaya Jr., Ben Moses Ebreo, Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Frank Cimatu and Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Anselmo Roque and Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Business bullish but wary

THE BUSINESS outlook for the Philippines this year remains "somewhat optimistic" but many executives are concerned over issues such as law and order, corruption and drug abuse, results of a survey released Thursday showed.

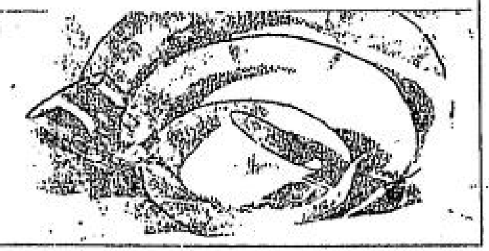
The majority of senior executives polled believe that the economy will grow by 4.4 percent this year as it did in 2002, according to the survey of the Makati Business Club, which represents the country's top companies.

The figure is still well within the government's 4.2-5.2 percent growth target for the year.

"The business mood at mid-year basically remains the same as it did in January—somewhat optimistic but this time with some signs of softening with respect to investments and hiring," the club said.

"Signs of some optimism were seen in the outlook for inflation rates, interest rates and the foreign exchange rate.

"In spite of the SARS outbreak, the war in Iraq, and peace and order problem, the business community's outlook for investments, exports and imports remains the same as in January (survey)." The survey involved executives of companies that have revenues of at least 500 million pesos (9.26 million dollars). **AFP**



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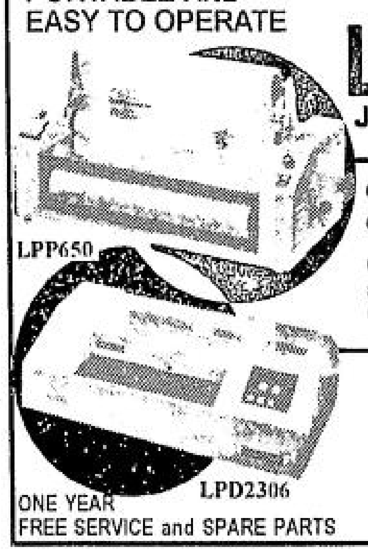

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MAGIC SING DISTRIBUTOR VISITS KOREAN VIDEOKE MICROPHONE MANUFACTURER

IAJ executives in a recent visit to Enter-Tech (Korea). Shown from left to right: Mr. Young In Kim, Mr. S H Lee (Treasurer), Mrs. Cris Llamo (with daughter Abbey), Mr. Andres Sanchez, Jr., Mrs. Linda Sanchez, Ms. Olive Sanchez & Mr. K H Lee (President of Enter-Tech). At the background is the newly constructed building of Enter-Tech. According to Mr. K H Lee, IAJ executives were the first foreign visitors to the newly constructed building.

In-a-Jiffy executives first foreign visitor of Enter-Tech's new office building

Enter-Tech Company Ltd. of Korea, manufacturer of **Magic Sing Videoke Microphone** recently welcomed to its new office building top executives of **In-a-Jiffy Enterprises (IAJ).** IAJ is the Philippines' biggest and leading distributor of the all-original **MAGIC SING VIDEOKE MICROPHONE,** song chips and accessories.

The IAJ contingent was composed of Mr. Andres Sanchez Jr., President; Mrs. Cris Llamo, COO; Mrs Linda Sanchez, CFO; and Ms. Olive Sanchez, GM. The welcoming party included Enter-Tech president Mr. Kyong Ho Lee, Mr. S. H. Lee (Treasurer) and Mr. Young In Kim. Enter-Tech's first foreign visitors, the IAJ group was toured around the company's new office built with modern design principles. The technology and effort invested in the overall design of Enter-Tech's new office is also evident in the Magic Sing Videoke Microphone currently making waves in the Philippines and the rest of the world because of its user friendly features.

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In-a-Jiffy Enterprises is the largest and most trusted distributor of the Magic Sing Videoke Microphone and accessories, with over 200 dealers nationwide Including such big names as **Odyssey, Automatic Center, Astrovision, Abenson, Music One, Tower Records, Sogo Home & Office Center, Western Appliances** and many more.

Already with two models out in the market (Black and Silver), Entertech is slated to release its new 2004 Magic Sing model anytime soon. Watch out for the new improved Magic Sing Videoke Microphone at Music and Appliance Stores near you. For more information on the Magic Sing Videoke Microphone, visit www.magicmic.com.

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Stink of corruption

EDITORIAL

BEFORE THE billion-peso judgments against the Marcoses and Eduardo Cojuangco and other multimillion scams, the case against Edillo Montemayor pales in comparison in terms of magnitude. But there is one very significant detail in the Montemayor case that makes it deserve more than casual consideration. The former officer in charge of the Department of Public Works and Highways regional office in Central Luzon was nailed after a tip-off from an ordinary citizen.

In 1995, Luis Bundalian informed the Philippine consulate in San Francisco about Montemayor's purchase of a $140,000 house in Los Angeles, California. Bundalian pointed out that since Montemayor reported an income of only P168,648 in 1993, the property which was worth P3.9 million constituted unexplained wealth. When Montemayor failed to show that he had other sources of income, the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption ordered him dismissed and all his employment benefits forfeited in favor of the government. This decision was upheld recently by the Supreme Court.

What moved Bundalian to report Montemayor's unexplained wealth? Was it envy, revenge for some wrong earlier done to him by the government official or just a sense of civic duty?

It would be nice to know Bundalian did it as a matter of civic duty. But whatever his reason, this case again demonstrates how crucial is the help of citizens in fighting corruption in government or any crime for that matter.

The Macapagal administration knows this, and it has begun tapping this vital source of information to fight crime. For instance, the police has telephone numbers the public can call to report crimes or sightings of fugitives from the law, and this seems to be working very well. The Department of Finance has also assigned some numbers citizens can call to report suspected cases of unexplained wealth among its officials and employees.

After graft cases were filed against four high-ranking internal revenue and customs officials earlier this week, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced a wider crackdown on corruption that would not spare the highest officials or even members of her family. She vowed to carry this out with the same intensity and vigor as the war against terrorism, saying graft and corruption was undermining the nation's stability.

Certainly this is one program that deserves the Filipino people's full support. If they would take seriously the appeals for help of the DOF, it would not be difficult to imagine those hotlines being clogged all day long.

There are other ways whereby citizens can help win the war against graft and corruption. One obviously is to refuse to pay grease money to facilitate transactions with government agencies or give kickbacks for contracts. This is a tall order for anyone who has to deal with a bureaucracy that is steeped in corrupt practices. But the war can never be won, unless the collusion between bribe-giver and bribe-taker is broken.

Another way is to deny the corrupt the social rewards they crave. It is not enough to curse the corrupt under our breath, they should be made to feel that corruption really stinks and it is a big turn-off to society. Criminals don't deserve a place of honor, and that is what corrupt officials really are.

A delicate task

FOREIGN COMMENT

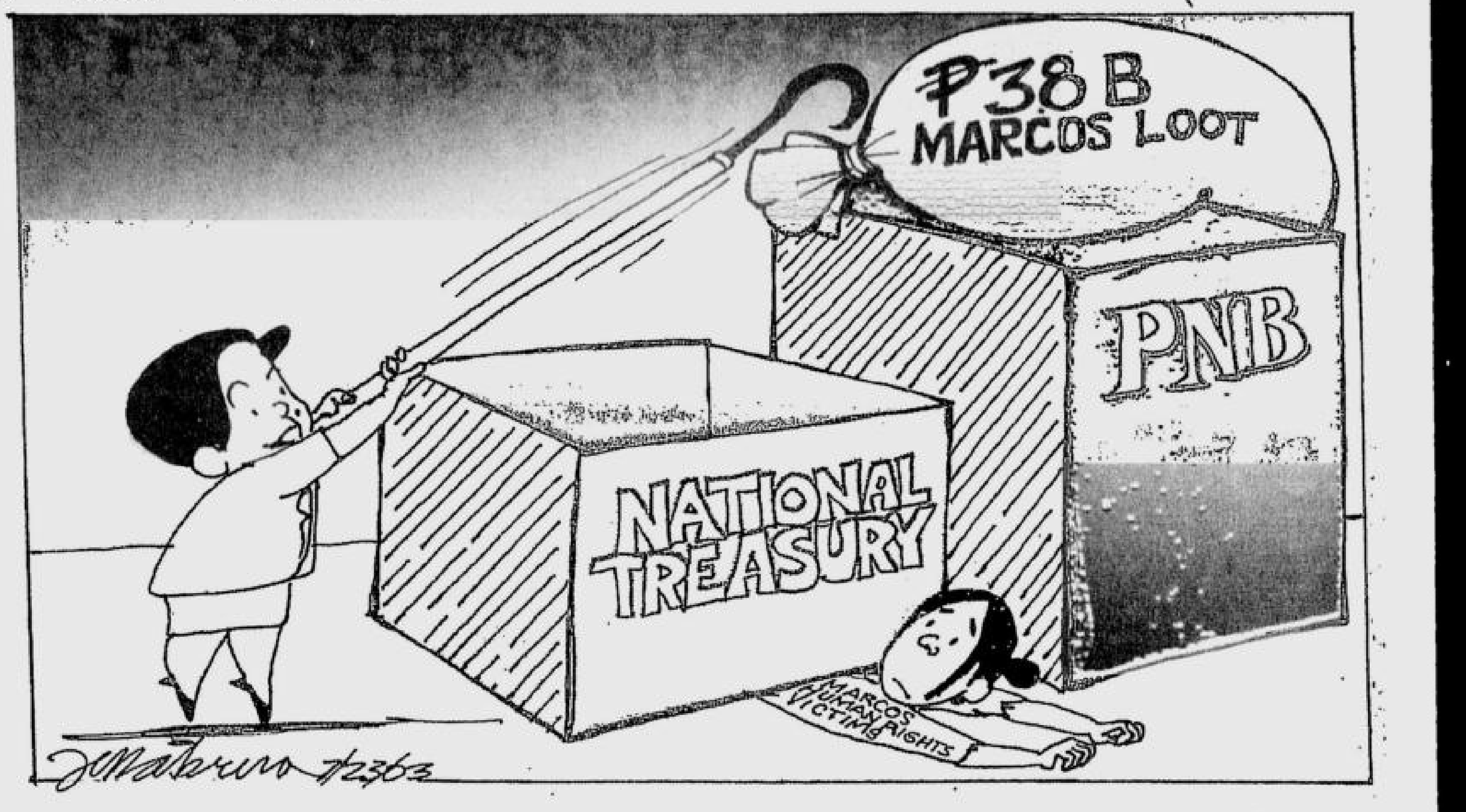
INSTALLING peace in Iraq has proven to be more delicate than winning the war there. This is no surprise to anyone. Still the difficulties have only started, and no one knows today the magnitude and gravity that events will take.

The problem is first of all that of the Americans. The danger was known. Without doubt the democratic model can be installed through economic growth and fair sharing of riches. But, besides needing time, both require a sovereign political organization, which implies the establishment of public order.

The danger is from now on to see a situation deteriorate that should have provided a model. One can hardly see the Iraqi case serving other states of the region as reference point...

The danger is growing, as is the number of killed soldiers... After having lied, George Bush and Tony Blair can't allow themselves to fail.

Le Figaro (Paris)



We're behind the times in Nat'l Artist awards

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT happens every year. After the announcement of the year's choices for National Artist, a wave of protests and criticisms erupts in the art community. An object of the most virulent protests is the bad habit of Malacañang in inserting its favorites among the winners chosen by the board of judges from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). Another is the manner by which the board of judges chooses the nominees and finalists.

Malacañang, the judges and the controversial winners have their defenders. Malacañang defenders choose to be legalistic. The National Artist title, they say, is a presidential award and the President has every right to name anybody he/she wants as National Artist. If she wants to make her hairdresser a National Artist, said one, she can do so. NCCA-CCP apologists cite the long process of nominations and screening of the candidates. And the defenders of the controversial winners cite their other qualities, if not their artistic talents, to justify the award.

But the proof of the pudding, after all, is in the eating. No matter the legalistic mumbo jumbo, the long process of selection and the qualities of the lucky winners, if many people are unhappy over the choices, then there is something wrong with them. If the people will not respect the choices, and heap scorn and derision instead of praise and honor on the winners, then the whole thing is a failure. For the intent of the award is to bestow honor on the artist.

Why give the National Artist Award at all if the awardee will only be derided instead of being accorded the honor and respect expected from the public?

The National Artist Award is going the way of the "Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awards. The first TOYM award was so prestigious that so many coveted it. But the later judgings were attended by politicking, jockeying, arm-twisting, influence and even suspicions of bribery that the TOYM soon lost credibility and faded away. The way the National Artist Award is losing credibility, it may soon meet the same fate. Which would be a big loss and a crying shame.

To think that the first National Artists were hailed with widespread approval and rejoicing in the art community, even if it was President Marcos who personally picked them. For there was no doubt that the first awardees were deserving. Who could quarrel with the choice of Fernando Amorsolo, Carlos V. Francisco, Vicente Manansala and Cesar F. Legaspi for painting, Guillermo Tolentino for sculpture, Nick Joaquin for literature, and Antonio J. Molina for music?

But as the years went by and the pool of talented artists began to dry up, the awardees became less and less acceptable. While the pool of talents decreased as the outstanding ones got their awards, the pool of mediocre artists who have very high opinions of themselves increased. At the same time, the chore of selecting the awardees was transferred to the NCCA and the CCP whose members, in the words of one National Artist, are "just a bunch of incompetent bureaucrats." Few of them are accomplished and respected artists themselves. The result: disaster.

The problem, I think, begins with the nominations, from which the finalists are chosen, only to be overruled by the President who can insert her favored candidate among the winners even if he/she is not in the list of finalists. Any individual or group can nominate anybody for no other reason than the nominee is his or their friend or classmate. One painter was once asked why he nominated another painter whose particular talent was self-promotion.

"Because he nominated me," was the painter's reply.

I think there should be no need for nominations. The artists themselves should choose the candidates from among their ranks. The Pulitzer Prizes don't accept nominations. There is a permanent secretariat that reads all the publications, and the outstanding works for consideration by the board of judges composed of the best in their fields.

As for the categories, Lito B. Zulueta of the UST Center of Creative Writing and Studies has a point in his piece forum in last Sunday's issue of the INQUIRER on the National Artist Award. The furor over Alejandro Roces, Carlos Quirino, and Carlos P. Romulo, he said, "owes to the canonization of imaginative literature over non-imaginative literature, of fiction over non-fiction." All three controversial awardees are non-fictionists.

"The elitist notion of imaginative literature as the 'only' literature or the literature that is worth considering in the National Artist Award is anomalous," Zulueta said. "We must remember that the notion of literature as imaginative literature is scarcely two centuries old. Before the 19th century, literature and other analogous terms in Europe meant 'writings' or 'book knowledge'."

It was only later that "poets and fictionists were acclaimed, while historians, journalists and philosophers were disparaged."

But now, the world has turned full circle. Hardly anybody reads poetry anymore. There are more titles for non-fiction books than for fiction. Some of the best writing now is non-fiction. Books on the "new journalism" genre are written like fiction. Journalism has been called "literature in a hurry." Fiction that sells a few thousand copies become best-sellers but millions read journalism every day. Thus, journalism has more impact on our social, cultural and economic lives than fiction.

But it is fiction that is exalted and non-fiction excluded in choosing the National Artist for Literature. We are behind the times.

Lifestyles

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S not entirely without merit, the concept of a lifestyle check. That has recently waylaid four government officials—three from the BIR, one from Customs—who have been charged with graft by the Ombudsman. Indeed, who stand to have swift justice meted out to them: The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission vows to wrap up administrative proceedings against them in 45 days. One of the officials, Manuel Valencia, has been suspended outright by Customs.

A monumental disparity between known income and declared and undeclared assets, short of a sudden inheritance, naturally indicates malfeasance. Worse if the asset is undeclared, BIR officials being sworn not just to run after people who do not report their assets, or misdeclare them, but to not do it themselves.

Valencia's case is particularly hilarious, though nobody is laughing. A warehousing chief who earns P21,217, he has a declared worth of P1.5 million and an undeclared cash deposit of $3.8 million (the dollar sign is not a misprint), five lots in Parañaque, and a rice field in Cavite. He has no known rich grandfather or uncle who doted on him and who passed away recently. I earn considerably more than him, but my assets do not even add up to his declared one.

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo has every reason to suspend him. Though short of filing criminal charges against him as well as the three BIR people, that is like giving coup plotters push-ups. The only thing that can hurt them is that they cannot make more money. But if you've already got $3.8 million in the bank, that cannot be the end of the world. Of course greed is bottomless, and in that sense it is punishment. But as far as the public is concerned, it is not punishment enough.

A lifestyle check does pose problems for grafters, but only in one respect. This is a country that values social status, and part of the joy of being corrupt is being able to flaunt its fruits. Cars, mansions, mistresses and throwing lavish parties, not necessarily in that order of importance, are the most common accoutrement of prosperity, and the very nouveau, if not nouvelle, riche like to surround themselves with them. Where is the sense in coming into wealth without being able to make the hitherto snobbish rich relations and neighbors green with envy? They might say nasty things about you behind your back, but they will attend your parties and eat crow along with *lechon*.

A lifestyle check prevents you from being famous, even if it doesn't always prevent you from being rich. I grant that can be torture to some people.

But there is little else that it does, or can do. It can only fry small fry, the very category of people most likely to flaunt wealth and least likely to have the power to ward off unwanted attention from the anti-graft bodies.

Certainly, it cannot touch those in power. It's not just the BIR and Customs (and the Department of Education) that reek of corruption, the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces do, too. You want to do a lifestyle check, do one on Angelo Reyes and the other generals. Indeed, do one on a general-turned-president named Fidel Ramos. Ramos already had a house in Ayala Alabang and other valuable properties long before he became president. The official salary of a general may be bigger than those of the BIR and Customs officials who currently find themselves in hot water, but not much more. There is reason for the middle-level officers in the AFP to be restive and the rank-and-file to be pissed off. The spoils are not trickling down to them.

Indeed, you want to do a lifestyle check, do one on a fellow named Mike Arroyo. Though of course it won't be so easy pinning him down. He is not one to flaunt wealth. I saw him a couple of years ago in San Francisco and if my companion hadn't pointed him out, I wouldn't have noticed him. He was wearing denims and a shirt and sweater. I don't know what he drove—he was inside a shop. But then his being inconspicuous may owe far less to being subtle than to being nondescript.

But that is the point. A lifestyle check cannot waylay the corrupt; it can only waylay the incontinent. Which makes it a matter of culture and personal disposition. Between Ferdinand and Imelda, Ferdinand was obviously the more corrupt. But you look at his lifestyle and you would not see it. He was one to glue the broken arm of his eyeglasses rather than throw the whole thing away—*sayang*, it could still be used. Imelda, on the other hand, was the type who would fly white sand from Australia to Olot to transform a mythical ancestral home into a magical castle by the sea. In fact, she managed to transform her name into the root word of a whole English word: "Imeldific." You do a lifestyle check and only Imelda would fail; Ferdinand would pass with flying colors. So would Gloria and Mike.

A lifestyle check will not penalize crooks; it will penalize those who do not know how to hide their crookedness. Those who do not know how to pass off their sudden and prodigious acquisitions as somebody else's, or are too stingy to hire accountants to do the same. Those who, like Erap, like to sign another person's name to checks in front of female bank managers, and not those who, like Ramos, like to bury Amari under the rubble of Philippines 2000. Those who like to parade new Mercedes-Benzes and grab land in Tagaytay and not those who like to open accounts in Switzerland or other places known for their discreetness.

A lifestyle check will only penalize Visayans, not Ilocanos. But I'll stop there before the brickbats come from both directions.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Lavish helping of the unusual

FEATURE

Ed Cropley

Centuries-old Buddhist magic is being used to prey upon the superstitions of peasants in one of Asia's poorest countries

PHNOM PENH—Back-to-back genocide movies on TV, elephants ferrying ballot boxes through the jungle and an aging king hosting a banquet for fractious politicians are hardly features of the standard election campaign.

Then again, Cambodia has never had "standard" elections.

Armed with roughly $2 billion and thousands of troops, the United Nations oversaw landmark polls in 1993, marking the beginning of the end of decades of civil war, including the genocide of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge in the 1970s.

A second general election in the impoverished southeast Asian nation in 1998, one year after a bloody coup, was marred by widespread violence, intimidation and rioting after the result.

So far, this year's race toward the July 27 polls has been more peaceful, according to most observers, but has still served up a lavish helping of the unusual.

Human rights and pro-democracy groups have reported frequent attempts to buy or threaten voters, although, in a sign that the fledgling democracy is maturing, the methods of intimidation are becoming more complex, they say.

Beyond simple death-threats, centuries-old Buddhist magic, "sacred water" and secret vote-swearing ceremonies are all being used to prey upon the superstitions of peasants in one of Asia's poorest countries.

"People were told to assemble and swear allegiance to one party by drinking water with bullets in it," the Cambodian Centre for Human Rights quoted a villager as saying in a recent report.

US-based group Human Rights Watch, which blames local officials in outlying villages for most of the skullduggery, has welcomed the drop in overt political violence, but said "gift-giving" by parties remains commonplace.

Besides cash, voters are said to be lured with rice, T-shirts and sachets of monosodium glutamate, or "MSG," the food additive popular in some Asian cuisine.

Campaigning is banned on the eve of the polls, but few believe the "Night of the Barking Dogs"—so-called from the tip-toeing from door to door of politicos with last-minute inducements or threats—will be quieter than in the past.

The opposition Sam Rainsy Party even said it would try to buy out vote-buying votes by offering informants who uncovered verifiable election bribery twice the sum on offer.

With memories of the Khmer Rouge genocide, in which 1.7 million are believed to have died, and decades of civil war still fresh in the minds of most Cambodians, some outsiders caution against preaching too puritanical a democratic message.

"Nobody condones the violence, but let's put this in perspective," said one Western diplomat. "It took the US over 100 years to arrive at a functional and effective democracy. These guys have only been at it 10 years." Apart from frequent tirades against neighbor and traditional foe Vietnam, campaigning for this year's polls, which Cambodia's tough Prime Minister Hun Sen is expected to win easily, has been high on bickering and low on policies.

One TV station has aired "The Killing Fields" and other Khmer Rouge genocide movies almost back-to-back over the last week, reflecting the main concern of most of the country's six million voters that war could break out again if it all goes wrong.

In a similar vein, the army was forced to postpone a rare live-fire tank practice at a range near the capital scheduled for two days before the polls in case people became too scared.

Some find it remarkable that elections can be organized at all in a country with such poor infrastructure.

For many voters, the preferred mode of transport to the polling booths will be the ox-cart, unchanged since the glory days of the Khmer empire responsible for the magnificent Angkor Wat temples 800 years ago.

In the wilds of the east, against the Vietnam border, the jungle is so dense and roads so poor that elephants are used to collect ballot boxes, delaying final results by days.

Many hope the influence of the octogenarian and revered King Sihanouk, who led the country to independence from France in 1953, will also keep a lid on tension.

Returning from a recent medical trip to Beijing, Sihanouk announced he would host a dinner and concert of "traditional music" for all political leaders to sooth any fevered brows.

Reuters

Workers pay the price

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN ITS heyday, the garment industry employed up to 400,000 workers, the great majority of them women. In 1990, about 230,000 garment workers were covered by 2,481 collective bargaining agreements or CBAs; by 1999, the number had plunged to just over 64,000 workers, covered by 412 CBAs.

The biggest reason for the decline in employment and consequently in unionized firms is that many owners of garment firms, facing expensive termination arrangements with the closure of factories in the face of declining demand, chose to simply close shop and abandon their workers.

Nobody should be forced to continue operating a business in the face of mounting losses. But as Jurgette Honculada, general secretary of the National Federation of Labor (NFL) and commissioner for labor of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), points out, garments exporters were perfectly willing for decades to enjoy the fruits of prosperity even as they knew the good days were coming to an end and without bothering to cushion the impact on their workers.

"It is necessary to draw a brief history of the industry to understand why garment firms are now in free fall, taking the money and running away, leaving their workers in limbo with no means to start anew," writes Honculada in a briefing paper.

In the 1970s, recalls Honculada, the United States and other industrialized countries in Europe enacted a series of protectionist measures to fend off products from Japan and, later, the economic tigers of Asia. The Multi-Fiber Agreement or MFA was one such measure, setting restrictions on garment production in East Asia from 1975 to 1995. "This proved a boon to developing countries in Southeast (and South) Asia, including the Philippines which were drawn into garment production for export, with the country enjoying a one-percent share of garment exports on the global market. For the better part of two decades, the Philippine garment industry proved a top export-earner, employing hundreds of thousands of workers and reaping untold profits."

* * *

BUT the deadline, as all deadlines must, is falling due and despite lobbying efforts with the US Congress that gained a 10-year extension on MFA quotas, the Philippine quota in garment exports will come to an end in December next year.

The industry and government had almost 30 years to prepare for the end of the quota and while the entry of China and other low-wage, low-cost countries was a matter of time, Honculada points out that "various steps could have been taken to ensure greater viability of the industry (for instance, by establishing a textile industry, efforts at which were undermined by the technical smuggling of cheap textiles by some garment firms themselves); or at least to cushion the fall."

Early last year, Honculada recalls, the government announced the launching of a P1.6 billion "rescue plan" for the beleaguered garments industry. She wonders where those "much-touted social safety nets" are now. "Perhaps (the plan) 'rescued' the garment firms, but what about the tens of thousands of workers, mostly young and single women when they started, now middle aged, married and with children to feed? Were they part of the plan?"

* * *

THE PLIGHT of workers in two shuttered firms—Karayom Garments Manufacturing in Taguig and A. Bylson and Sons in Las Piñas—underscores Honculada's contention that it's the workers who're paying the price for the industry's lack of foresight.

Nemia Casulla, president of the Karayom union that had signed a five-year CBA with management just last October, says that the workers returned from the Christmas and New Year break last Jan. 6 only to find the doors of their factory locked, with no word as to when or if they would reopen, and their employers reneging on their commitments, including their 13th month pay and separation pay.

Karayom Garments stands on property owned by the in-laws of the owner, who also owns the bigger adjoining Gelmart garment factory. The union now fears that Karayom's management will start pressing for "permanent" closure on grounds that Gelmart is ending the lease agreement. Gelmart has already posted a sale notice on the Karayom lot, even as the union has received word that Karayom's owners have set up a new operation within the Clark Ecozone.

Karayom was a supplier of polo shirts for, among others, Levi's Strauss (under the Dockers brand). A company that prides itself in its social consciousness, Levi's is a member of the Ethical Training Initiative that requires contractors and subcontractors to adhere to ethical practices. The union officers ask: Is Levi's continuing its relationship with the Karayom owners through their alleged "runaway shop"? If so, then so much for Levi's ethical standards.

* * *

AS with Karayom, the owners of A. Bylsons and Sons are reported to have set up another company in Calamba, asking workers to move there from the old factory in Las Piñas. However, says Joel Buela, the union president, the Calamba plant operates only two to three times a week and the workers' weekly earnings are barely enough for transportation and food expenses.

The labor department has also issued an "assumption of jurisdiction" order over the Bylsons' labor dispute but, says Buela, the order's provisions are one-sided, favoring the company and not addressing at all the issues raised by the union.

Casulla aired a sentiment common to workers in the troubled garments firms. "I really feel bad about what happened because our relationship with the owners was so good for more than 20 years," she said. Unfortunately, when hard times come, even the best of relationships are bound to sour, and it's the least powerful who suffer more.

Echoes from the Sublime Paralytic

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

STORMY weather almost always steals the thunder from the yearly commemoration of Mabini's birthday. This year was no exception, even if it happens to be a century since he died of cholera in that humble house by the Pasig. I often wonder if the people who live and work in the Palace even notice the Mabini Shrine which is literally a stone's throw across the polluted but historical river. Each time I am in Malacañang I wonder what kind of reminder the Mabini Shrine is to them—is it merely a slice of trivial history? A rotting old house? An inspiration or a rebuke?

In these days of lifestyle checks, Mabini is a fine example especially to temporary occupants of Malacañang and the people who dangle on the fringes of power. The Mabini Shrine is quiet dignity, Malacañang is tacky (the handiwork of Marcos-era renovations).

The Mabini Shrine is bare but feels like home, unlike Malacañang with its stiff (stately?) public rooms. Power in the Mabini Shrine is the memory of a hero who, for a short time, ran the affairs of the First Philippine Republic; power in Malacañang is fleeting, anchored on politics and patronage. When I sit in the Mabini Shrine the house validates what I think I know about the "Sublime Paralytic," while Malacañang leaves me cold and wishing that the walls would tell me what they had seen and heard. Things that could alter the history we know now.

These reflections proceed from a re-reading of "Mabini's Decalogue." This bored me witless in grade school because teachers didn't even explain what "Decalogue" meant. They presumed that mere reading of the text would automatically make us patriotic. Written in Cavite in June 1898, 12 days from the declaration of independence, Mabini is like Moses minus the stone tablets and the shining face, bringing his own "Ten Commandments" to Filipinos. The English translation is not satisfactory (which partly explains why it was so unpalatable in my childhood) and I have tried to make it less preachy by dispensing with the "Thou" and "Thy" and "Thine" that litter the translation by JRM Taylor who included this in his five-volume collection of papers on the "Philippine Insurrection against the United States." Mabini wrote:

"First. Love God and your honor above all things. God, as the fountainhead of all truth, all justice and of all energy; honor, the sole power that will oblige [these] to be truthful, just and industrious.

"Second. Adore God in the form that your conscience may deem most righteous, because in your conscience which condemns the bad acts and applauds the good ones, God speaks.

"Third. Cultivate the special abilities which God has given you, working and studying according to your strength, without departing from the path of goodness and from justice, in order to attain your own perfection and thus contribute to the progress of humanity; thus shall you realize the mission which God Himself has planned out for you in this life, and realizing it, you shall have honor, having honor, you shall glorify God.

"Fourth. Love your country after God and your honor, more than yourself, for she is the only Paradise which God has given you in this life; the only patrimony of your race; the only inheritance from your predecessors; and the only future of your descendants; from it you have life, love and interests; happiness, honor and God.

"Fifth. Secure the happiness of your country before your own, making from there the Kingdom of right, of justice and of work; for if she is happy, happy shall you and your family be.

"Sixth. Secure the independence of your country, because you alone can have a true interest in her aggrandizement and dignity, as her independence constitutes your own liberty, her aggrandizement your perfection and her dignity your own glory and immortality.

"Seventh. Recognize no authority in your country of any person who may not have been elected by you and by your compatriots, because all authority emanates from God, and as God speaks in the conscience of every individual, the person designated and proclaimed by the conscience of a whole people is the only one wh[illegible] use real authority.

"Eighth. Secure for your people a republic but never a monarchy: the latter ennobles one or several families and founds a dynasty; the former builds up a people, noble and trustworthy through reason, great through liberty, prosperous and brilliant through industry.

"Ninth. Love your neighbor as yourself, because God has imposed upon him as he has upon you the obligation of helping you and not doing unto you as he would not have you do unto him; but if your neighbor, failing in this sacred duty, should attempt to take your life, your liberty and your property, then you should destroy and annihilate him as the supreme law of self-preservation would prevail.

"Tenth. You shall love your compatriots somewhat more than your neighbor; you shall see in him a friend, a brother, and at least a companion to whom you are bound by the same lot, by the same joys and sorrows, and by common aspirations and by common interests.

"Therefore, while the frontiers of nations exist, raised and maintained by the egotism of race and family, to him alone should you unite yourself in perfect solidarity of aims and interests, to attain strength not only to fight the common enemy, but also to realize all the aims of human life."

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

A darkness of our own making

COMMENTARY

Antonio Calipjo Go

HOW well has the Department of Education, that over-bloated agency of the government tasked with supervising and regulating all educational institutions in the Philippines, been carrying out its constitutional directive to "promote and protect the right of every citizen to relevant, quality education at all levels"? Has the DepEd been doing its job to "establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education"? In short, has the DepEd really been educating our children, as it should?

Without fail, the same old problems usher in the opening of each new school year: lack of classrooms, lack of textbooks, lack of teachers.

We have a classroom shortage of 44,716 nationwide. Originally built to accommodate 1,000 students, the Batasan Hills National High School in Quezon City today has a population of 9,124 students. Some 65 to 70 students are crammed into a classroom while eight classes are being conducted at the covered court. Extremely large classes of up to 120 pupils in other schools have also been reported in other parts of the country.

We have a desk shortage of five million nationwide. Students have resorted to bringing their own chairs or endure sitting on the floor for hours on end.

The DepEd has registered a student-to-book ratio of 3:1 at best. Sometimes four students share one book. Even when there is one book for every pupil, the books are not necessarily of the same title.

We have a teacher shortage of 35,818 nationwide. The Batasan Hills National High School has only 161 teachers to handle its 9,124 students. In the Cordillera, the DepEd can only afford to hire one teacher for every 84 pupils.

Public schools also suffer from a severe lack of health care personnel. There's only one nurse for every 4,000 students, one dentist for every 25,000 and one doctor for every 90,000.

Project Tao, the government's own survey of 405,973 public school teachers, reveals that 55 percent of the schools they teach in have no electricity, 84 percent have no running water and only 38 percent have toilets. Almost half of them said they brought their own desks, tables and chairs.

This lethal brew of material, structural and operational deficiencies of the public school system have produced half-baked, barely literate graduates. Many public elementary school pupils finish school barely able to read, write and count. Seven out of 10 incoming high school freshmen have not mastered their elementary English, Science and Math subjects. The results of the first-ever national diagnostic test conducted last June 2002 showed that only 30 percent passed the English test, 28 percent passed Science and 27 percent passed Math.

In the 1999 International Mathematics and Science Study Exams, 6,601 Filipino students got rock-bottom rating. Out of 38 countries which participated in this testing held every four years, the Philippines landed second to the last.

The quality of teaching in public schools is generally perceived to be very poor. Many public school teachers flunked the teaching exams several times before finally making the grade.

To address the shortage of practically everything a school needs, the DepEd is implementing several "innovative" schemes. One method is to increase the number of students in one class, often to twice or thrice the ideal student-to-teacher ratio of 35:1. Classes are merged. Grades one to three pupils are lumped in one class. Three different classes are made to use a single classroom, one after the other. The drastic foreshortening of the regular class schedule deprives pupils as much as one month of a school year.

Under DepEd Order No. 37 of May 15, 2003, a student who fails in three subjects may be promoted to the next curriculum level without need of repeating them, thus invalidating the virtues of diligence and perseverance by rewarding nonperformance and incompetence.

Despite the fact that the 2003 national budget allocated P104.4 billion for education, the truth remains that in the entire Asian region, the Philippines spends the least on education. Real government expenditure per student actually shrunk from P510 to P134 between 1990 and 1997.

But the biggest blow has got to be the rushed, hushed implementation of the 2002 Restructured Basic Education Curriculum, a seriously flawed and defective curriculum whose many sins of commission and omission include the forced integration of subjects, defective prototype, deceptive time allotments, among others.

When conditions exist and persist in schools to such degree as to serve as impediment rather than inducement to the acquisition of knowledge, may it be said that the students receive relevant, quality education?

Imagine, if you will: A pupil walks three kilometers to get to school. Once there, he is made to sit on the earthen floor with 99 other tired, hungry pupils under the shade of a tree. He receives what passes for instruction from a poorly paid, underqualified contractual para-teacher who is just a meal ahead of her pupils in terms of knowledge. Four kids share one tattered, error-studded textbook. As luck would have it, he happens to belong to a multi-grade class of 100 grades one, two and three pupils, as well as to the first of a three-shift session. His teacher follows the defective lesson plans of the Roco Curriculum to the letter. There is no mechanism for testing and evaluation because there is really no need for them: moving up to the next grade level is practically guaranteed because of the continuous promotion policy of the DepEd. Can learning flourish in this environment? What's the point of sending your children to public school?

Because learning is reduced to the barest minimum as a consequence of the many grave structural, material and operational deficiencies, most public schools fail to teach the competencies an average citizen needs to become productive and responsible.

What must be done?

- Relevant and quality basic education must be made accessible to all. We can do this by finding new sources of money to finance a top-to-bottom reform of the Philippine educational system. Possible sources include the Pagcor, PCSO and PCGG-sequestered properties. The Pork Barrel System, which is both criminal and immoral, must be abolished, its funds diverted to educational reform.
- We must overhaul the bloated DepEd bureaucracy to ensure that program focus is clear and available resources are properly utilized. Given the overwhelming number of students in public schools, the creation of a Department of Elementary Education and a Department of Secondary Education is in order.

We have the power to change the course of our lives. We can effect social transformation through educational reform. We must race against time in order to save our moribund educational system. This we must do or we die.

Summary executions can never be justified

ALMOST daily, newspapers and TV stations in Davao and other cities in Mindanao carry reports on a series of killings of suspected criminals by the dreaded death squad. Many of those who have been killed were petty thieves, drug addicts and pushers. Most were young men.

What is happening reminds me of the secret marshals and the cases of salvaging during martial law. Can these killings be morally justified?

Those who order and perpetrate these killings obviously think that there is nothing wrong with killing criminals. They probably think that they are doing society a favor because they are defending society from evil people and putting up a deterrent to crime. Thus, they act as prosecutor, judge and executioner carrying out the death penalty.

Many ordinary citizens seem to think the same way as there has been little public outcry. They believe criminals—especially drug pushers and suppliers—deserve to die.

Is it right to kill criminals, especially drug pushers?

In spite of good intentions, the means used is not only illegal, it is also immoral. The end does not justify the means. We cannot achieve a good end through evil means. It is not right to fight crime by committing a crime and those who order and carry out these summary executions are guilty of the crime and sin of murder. What they violate is God's Fifth Commandment: You shall not kill.

The intentional killing of human beings, no matter how sinful they are, is a grave sin. Murderers are answerable not only to the law but to God.

The killing of criminals cannot be considered as an act of self-defense. They do not directly threaten the life of the killers. While their activities are harmful to society, there are lawful means of dealing with them.

No one has a license to kill and no one can arrogate unto himself the power of life and death over other people. Only God can do this.

The Church upholds the right to life of all human beings—whether, unborn, young, old and even criminals. The right to life is inalienable. It flows from the principle that all human beings are made in the image and likeness of God and possess human dignity. Life is sacred. No one can be deprived of the right to life—not even those suspected and found guilty of crime.

This right to life is enshrined in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Catholic Church's opposition to vigilante killings or summary execution is consistent with its opposition to abortion, capital punishment, war and euthanasia.

By all means, let those in authority go after the criminals, bring them to justice and punish them appropriately. But they should use means that are legally and morally right. They must remember they are not above the law and should uphold the law. To fight criminals, they should not become criminals themselves.

—FR. AMADO L. PICARDAL, CSsR,
St. Alphonsous Theologate,
Davao City

Better care for the newborn

WITH THE ECONOMIC crisis, the number of people going for consultations to the Philippine General Hospital has increased but the hospital budget has not. We are seeing more patients than we are able to care for, physically and financially. This leads to unnecessary deaths of patients due to unavailability of diagnostic tests, medicines and blood and inappropriate nurse-to-patient ratio.

The patients who suffer most are the newborn. The overcongestion at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit leads to overwhelming sepsis and resistance to last-line-of-defense drugs. The nurse to patient ratio of 1:10 for critically ill, intubated neonates and 1:15 for the less critically ill babies is one factor increasing the mortality rate for newborns.

I am making the following appeal:

1. I am asking the general population to please go to the hospital nearest your place to bring your patient when ill or about to deliver a baby. Many mothers who deliver at the PGH come from as far as Cavite, which makes it difficult for them to visit and feed their babies.

2. The government must assign catchment areas for the barangay lying-ins/hospitals and these lying-ins and hospitals must not deny admission to patients in their areas. We have seen bleeding mothers, unstable mothers or mothers with half-delivered babies going from one hospital to another but denied because of unavailability of staff or inadequate or lack of equipment. We also run out of incubators but we manage to thermo-regulate our prematures.

3. Local government officials must see to it that the lying-ins/hospitals within their area of responsibilities are appropriately equipped.

4. The lying-ins/hospitals should raise their own funds by seeking grants or the help of civic-oriented foundations like the Save-a-Life Foundation. I believe that Save-a-Life has already helped the Ospital ng Maynila and National Children's Hospital

5. Nurses should stay in our country. Our fast turnover of nurses forces us to keep continuous orientation and skill development.

6. Drug companies should lower their prices.

7. May God not abandon us.

Since the PGH is a training hospital, we would like to see more cases but we must not sacrifice lives for a successful training program.

We need to see to it that we train doctors whose patients will be forever grateful for a life extended to a gainful existence.

—PURA FLOR D. ISLETA, MD,
head, Section of Newborn
Medicine, UP-Manila and the
Philippine General Hospital,
Taft Avenue, Manila

Policeman caught breaking traffic rules

IN YOUR front-page photo last July 22, showing schoolchildren on their way home, unmindful of the jeepney strike, a policeman can be seen in the background riding a motorcycle without a crash helmet.

This uniformed law enforcer (and his companion—it looked like there were two of them) should be punished by his superiors not only for the violation of traffic rules but also for giving a bad example to motorcyclists.

—ERNESTO R. ZARATE,
Parc Chateau Condominium,
Onyx Street, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City

Roco needs to answer raps

I THINK former Sen. Raul Roco should not take the allegations of concerned citizens Dr. Edgar Daguimol and Alberto de Vera sitting down. I am sure there are many Filipinos who are in the same state of disbelief as I am. He could not have committed those acts against the Filipino people.

Despite the controversies that Roco faced during his term at the Department of Education (DepEd), I have thought of him as a righteous man. The allegations of union members of the DepEd looked to me like a smear campaign designed to bring down a reform-oriented leader.

But the case of graft and corruption filed by the two complainants is backed by pieces of documentary evidence. The charges seem so credible that Roco needs to rebut them point by point.

For one, his recruitment of his law partners to be "technical consultants" at the DepEd receiving salaries that are over and above the P1.8 million stipulated by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is potentially damaging to both his political and personal reputation. More importantly, as an avowed corruption crusader whose rallying call is "Zero tolerance for corruption," he owes it to the public to explain such allegations. Who really are the technical consultants hired? Are they the only people qualified to carry out the jobs? Why did they charge such astronomical fees?

Did he, in fact, divest from the Roco-Kapunan-Megallos law firm when he assumed his Cabinet position? If he didn't, then he should be penalized for conflict of interest, a clear violation of RA 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The people await Roco's defense. If he can refute the allegation and prove that this is an underhanded campaign of his political detractors, then shame on the people who are behind it. But if the charges are proven to be true, then shame on Roco for betraying the trust and faith that the public has given him for so long now.

—MARIA JOSEPHINE DELA
MERCED, Makati City;
jdelamerced@iname.com

Will war veterans' party be a winner at last?

IT seems the Filipino World War II heroes and veterans are forever doomed to suffer in silence. Jubilant that they will finally have a voice in Congress after their group won in the 2001 elections after coming in fourth in a field of 150, their party was however, disqualified supposedly for not meeting the requirements set by the Supreme Court.

With no one to protect their interest in Congress, the future for these veterans appears to be truly bleak. Discriminated against by their American comrades-in-arms when their services were declared "not active" by the Rescission Act of 1946, and neglected by their own government for over 50 years, the miserable saga of our suffering heroes continues. And as certain as death and taxes, many of them may never see the day of their deliverance because they are now at the recessional stage of their lives. Surely, at the rate things are going, it won't be a happy exit.

Recently the Commission on Elections released the names of party-list winners. Maybe it should decide the case of the veterans' group. Will this be another case of too late the heroes? It may seem that for the thousands of aging World War II veterans awaiting their just rewards, winning a war is far easier than fighting for justice and dignity.

As a grandson of a veteran myself, I would like to know when our long-neglected "suffer heroes" can have their rightful place in the Hall of Justice inhabited by other heroes.

Abangan ang susunod na kabanata.

—RICARDO D. CONQUILLO,
3753 Taguig St.,
Makati City

GMA should run away from Four Aces

IS she or isn't running? That is the question.

If you are running, run, President Gloria. If you are really not running, plainly say no now. But before you get embroiled in more politics, may I suggest that you run from four tyrannical evils: ambition, arrogance, amnesia and America.

The Four Aces are deadly. They continue to poison our politicians and the body politic. Corruption is a function of the four A's. How else can one sustain ambition, arrogance, amnesia and America except through corruption? Funds from the World Bank/WTO keep coming. But can our conscience-less officials account for them? A clean politician is always conscientious and aware of his or her own demons. So please President Gloria, run away from ambition, arrogance, amnesia and America.

Run away from ambition, because it focuses you on the future and makes you neglect the real challenges and demands of the present. People are jobless and hungry. There is a needless war in Mindanao. The military and police are spoiled. America is meddling too much. Some government officials have become abusive and proud like Bayani Fernando. Yes, President Gloria, run. Run away from ambition.

Run away from arrogance. You may not know it, but being in power and aspiring for more power make us forget who we are. We are not our titles. Our entitlements make us arrogant, forgetting our humble beginnings and actual creaturely states. Rare are humble leaders nowadays. Avoid scolding and embarrassing government officials. Do it gently. Relieve them if you will, but not before the media. Gentleness flows from humility. Let's run then—away from arrogance toward humility and gentleness.

Run away from Amnesia. The lack of exercise deprives our brains of much needed oxygen. Without adequate oxygen, we forget. You promised that you would not run. Please don't forget that. Don't forget that promises are solemn vows. Vows are not made frequently and facetiously. Vows come from within one's soul. You promised last Dec. 30, 2002. The entire nation heard your promise. We have not forgotten. We are waiting for you to tell us in no uncertain terms that you remember and are standing on the promise. The words of *trapos* cannot be trusted. You are not a *trapo*. Do keep your promise, do keep your word and shield yourself form the curse of the *trapo*.

Run away from America. Don't love America more than your own country. You are a Filipino and so are we. We can and will survive without America. It's America, which cannot survive without us. They need us for their war. They need us for their control of this part of the world. Run, Madam President, run away from America.

This run is not for you, Madam President. It is for all of us. We all need selflessness and magnanimity, humility and gentleness, remembrance and integrity.

—FR. ROBERT REYES,
Quezon City

Lotto should support education

EVERY opening of the school year, the Department of Education faces the perennial problem of lack of school buildings, classrooms, desks, chairs, books and other school needs. Some classes are conducted under trees. This situation affects the quality of education.

To solve these problems, I suggest that the Philippine government impose a 20-percent tax on the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.'s income from lotto to be used exclusively for education. The lotto card can even be marked: "Philippine Lotto for Education, 6/42." In the United States a similar 20-percent tax for education is collected.

When we bet on lotto, we hope to win but if we don't, at least we will be supporting the education of the youth.

I am sure my suggestion will help solve the DepEd's recurrent problems.

—GUILLERMO M. ALONSO,
Asturias, Cebu

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Surprise inspections won't banish sweatshops

YOUR exposé on Anvil Garments has caused the Macapagal administration to raise the red light against sweatshops (PDI, 7/11/03).. Unfortunately, surprise visits on business enterprises will not be enough. Unless and until the government dismantles the laws and policies that allow capital's debasement of labor, sweatshops are here to stay.

For instance, Republic Act 9718 or the Barangay Business Enterprise Act of 2002 was enacted last year as a priority measure of the administration. Under this law, companies whose assets do not exceed P3 million can register as barangay business enterprises and be exempted from the coverage of the minimum wage law. About 90 percent of business enterprises in the country have assets below P3 million. This means that most companies, upon registration under RA 9178, will no longer be legally liable if they pay their workers salaries below the minimum wage. How then can the government rail against the practice of paying slave wages to workers when the law allows the same?

We should also note that Congress will soon consider the New Labor Code recently approved by the congressional oversight committee on labor and employment. The proposed law further liberalizes labor contracting, allows working time beyond the eight-hour period without overtime pay and enables management to offset overtime work by undertime. Malacañang is exerting considerable efforts to get the measure enacted. This will turn the entire country into one giant sweatshop.

Where then is the seriousness in the administration's tirade against sweatshops?

A deeper look into the problem points to globalization and liberalization as major factors behind the proliferation of sweatshops. More often, the difficulties of local enterprises in competing against foreign products cause them to resort to cost-saving measures like the hiring of contractuals, payment of slave wages, non-remittance of SSS premiums and other practices that go against the fundamental rights of the workers. It is also in pursuit of the globalization and liberalization policies blindly embraced by the government that it has caused the passage of legislation that tramples upon basic labor rights. The government, therefore, has a huge share of the blame and could not wash its hands simply by resorting to empty rhetoric.

If the government really wants to make headway in the battle against sweatshops, it should start by stopping its all-out globalization program, working for the repeal of the anti-labor provisions of RA 9178, halting the passage of the New Labor Code, and adopting pro-labor policies that truly empower the workers instead of treating them as sacrificial lambs on the altar of capitalist greed.

—REMIGIO D. SALADERO JR.,
Pro-Labor Legal Assistance
Center, 33-B E. Rodriguez Ave.,
Quezon City

Sweatshops in the Philippines

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

THESE problems of the Anvil workers were reported to the Department of Labor and Employment months before the INQUIRER exposed it. Why then was the investigation delayed? What are you doing in your offices?

Sure the story created a big problem here with importers. But let me ask Donald Dee, as the president of Congep, what have you done to ensure that garments exporters are obeying the laws covering their dealings with the work force, thus protecting the image of garment exporters? There is always a way to gather information. It would have been very easy for him to implement guidelines and to make reports to the labor department regarding illegal labor practices of members and nonmembers. In fact, as Congep president, Dee can always ask all garments exporters to safeguard the industry no matter how big or small they are.

This is always the case in the Philippines. Whenever a scoop is published, you hear people whining to protect their own interests. When will we ever learn?

Will we ask the Bureau of Immigration to be on the lookout for those people involved in Anvil's labor malpractices? It is customary for these people to escape and lie low abroad.—**bajhista**

* * *

What the heartless Anvil management did was slavery. They preyed on workers like leeches, knowing that these people really needed to work no matter what. It's a good thing that Anvil's labor malpractice was exposed so that the heads of those responsible can be laid on an anvil and hammered repeatedly....—**remde**

* * *

Justice?...I doubt it very seriously. Nothing will happen... Laborers are poor—*isang kahig, isang tuka* people ...Who'll represent them?—**ulong pare**

* * *

Abstract justice... that's what you can expect unless someone wild bares his fangs. —**Predator**

* * *

Nothing works! Justice is a farce. Education is nonexistent. Medicine is for the birds. Government is inhabited by traditional politicians. Families are mostly dysfunctional. Religion? I am not going there.—**baroque**

GMA rating: 'A for effort, B– for performance'

From page A1

Rep. Jose Sarte Salceda, head of the committee which keeps track of Ms Macapagal's commitments in her State of the Nation Address (Sona), gave his former teacher an overall rating of 7.8 on a scale of 10.

The committee found that Ms Macapagal and her Cabinet complied with 21 but failed in 11 targets, including the reduction of the price of medicines and power rates, she had set in her 2002 Sona.

It noted that Ms Macapagal's most glaring shortfall was in transportation infrastructure. Out of seven flagship projects, only one—the MRT 2 line—will be finished by next year.

It cited Ms Macapagal's key achievements in the areas of land redistribution, barangay electrification, farm jobs generation, easing traffic congestion and improvement of garbage collection in Metro Manila.

Contrast

The oversight committee report contrasted sharply with the assessment made by deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo.

Saludo said on Wednesday that Ms Macapagal achieved all but two—the lifting of the rice import monopoly and the transfer of ancestral lands—of her Sona commitments.

Salceda said the other day that Ms Macapagal's failure to reiterate some of her key goals in the 2001 Sona led some government agencies to overlook valid goals or ignore their regular mandates such as constructing more houses for the urban poor and more school buildings in the barrios.

"Our current Sona review clearly proves that a Sona target by itself holds a unique prescriptive value particularly in a bureaucracy known for its inertia. This must be promptly remedied," Salceda said.

He said these factors exacerbated the government's chronic budget deficit which made it difficult to pursue big-ticket items such as the Armed Forces modernization, the Philippine National Police modernization, transportation, infrastructure, electoral computerization and textbook acquisition.

Salceda said the figures on the government's campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, kidnapping and other crimes "tend to show a better picture." But he said the public remained unconvinced because no big fish had been put behind bars.

Right direction but...

"If you look at the effort, I think we are in the right direction but in (our) report, we still rated her anti-corruption and anti-crime (drives) negative," Salceda said.

"We see the effort but the outcome is not there. No conviction, no big fish. No big smuggler or tax-evader has been sent to jail. All we have are a lot of cases but filing cases are not an outcome," he said.

He said the public would be convinced if a big fish was convicted and jailed.

Salceda said he would have given 7.5 to Ms Macapagal's performance if the escape of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi was included in his committee's assessment.

"The war against terrorism has resulted in a 52-percent reduction in the strength of ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) although the Al-Ghozi escape is a blow on public confidence both on peace and order and the war against terrorism," the report said.

Salceda said Ms Macapagal should do "something more dramatic" about the Al-Ghozi escape to redeem the country before the international community. He said the President should have fired PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

But on the whole, Salceda said his committee was satisfied with the performance of Ms Macapagal and her team.

He said the electrification of barangays stood out as the President's best performance while the biggest improvement was in land distribution.

But Salceda said there were shortfalls in the "school in every barangay" program.

He said Ms Macapagal's decision not to run in 2004 weakened her administration's performance on her Sona targets.

He said politicians perform their jobs "more passionately if there is a reward or incentive in front of them."

"The biggest reward is reelection," he said.

Ms Macapagal announced on Dec. 30, 2002 that she would not be running in 2004 to ensure that politicking would not impede the implementation of vital projects and policies.

Passion for risks

Salceda noted Ms Macapagal had shifted "from a passion for preoccupations, targets and deadlines" in her 2001 Sona to "a passion for risks, the long term and the big picture" in the 2002 Sona.

He went on to suggest that Ms Macapagal run in 2004.

"I hope so. I really think she should reconsider ... But I think she better decide fast," Salceda said.

He said the recovery of the P38 billion in Marcos loot, which the three post-Edsa administrations before her had failed to accomplish, boosted the government's fiscal position.

"It's the first time the government is running not on a crisis and therefore you could not justify changing the administration. You'd rather justify a continuity of programs," Salceda said.

Salceda observed that the past four elections resulted in a change in administration because the interest rates were high.

"If we go by macro-economic indicators, it would be hard to topple this administration because interest rates are low. There is no economic crisis and there is no blunder on macro-economic policies. No administration has enjoyed the same advantage. This is the first time," he said.

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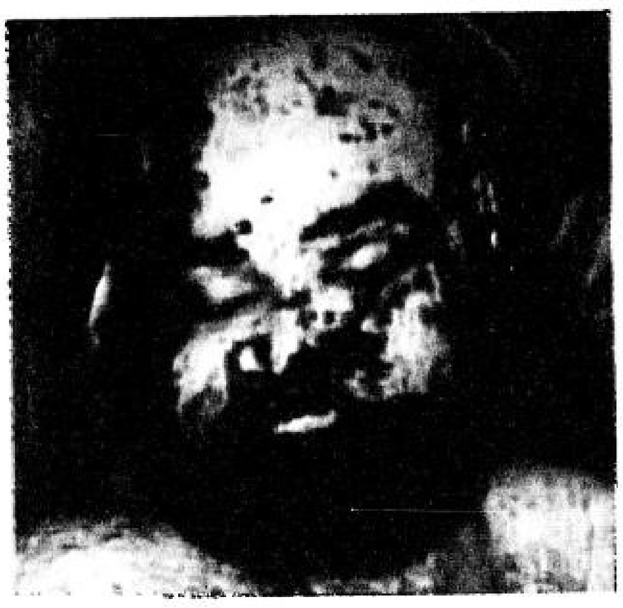
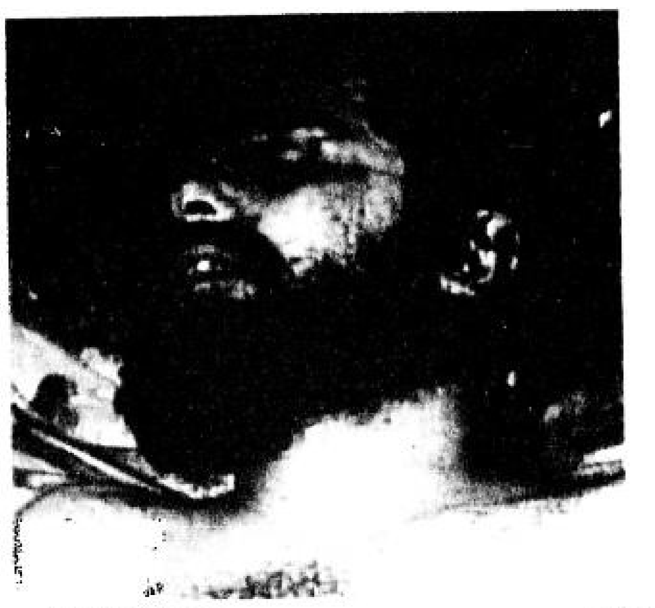
The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US releases pictures of dead Saddam sons



UDAY Hussein REUTERS



QUSAY Hussein REUTERS

BAGHDAD—The US military released graphic photographs Thursday showing the faces of Saddam Hussein's feared sons Uday and Qusay, two days after they were killed in a fierce firefight in a villa in the northern city of Mosul.

The photos, two of each brother, showed the men with thick beards and severely bruised faces. The brothers had never worn thick beards and may have been trying to disguise their identities as they spent 3 1/2 months in hiding from coalition forces.

The photographs were immediately broadcast by CNN and two Arab satellite television networks widely viewed in Iraq.

The military has said the brothers and a third man, believed to have been a bodyguard, were killed by US TOW missiles fired into the villa where they were hiding out Tuesday. A fourth person in the house, believed to be Qusay's teenage son Mustafa, was shot to death by troops storming the house after the missiles devastated it.

The release of the photographs was a move by the military to convince skeptical Iraqis that the brothers were dead. Many Iraqis, especially Saddam supporters, believed the American military concocted the story of the brothers' killing to demoralize opponents of the US occupation.

The brothers were betrayed by an Iraqi, reportedly a Saddam cousin who owned the villa where they were hiding, after the United States offered a $15-million reward for information leading to the capture or death of either. *AP*

Man who hosted Uday, Qusay accused of selling them for $30M

MOSUL, Iraq—Some of Sheik Nawaf al-Zaydan Muhhamad's neighbors accuse him of tipping off coalition forces that Saddam Hussein's feared sons Uday and Qusay were staying with him and his family.

If that's true—and American officials won't say—the sheik will suddenly be $30 million richer. He's already become an outcast in his own neighborhood.

The US occupation administration had offered $15 million each for information leading to the arrest of Saddam's wanted sons and $25 million for Saddam.

In retrospect, neighbors said, they became suspicious of the sheik when his wife and their four daughters left the house at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday and never returned.

"There is a big question mark there—did they know something would happen, or was it a coincidence?" asked Ahmed Hazim, 37, who lives around the corner from Muhhamad's huge, three-story villa on Shalalat Street. The massive pillars holding up the front facade now stand charred and crumbling after Tuesday's shootout.

Three hours after the women left, US troops walked up to the front door, knocked, and asked all those inside to come out. It wasn't long before Muhhamad and his only son, Shalan, came out with their hands on their heads, neighbors said. Coalition forces took them away.

After that, US troops called over loudspeakers in 10-minute intervals for anyone else to come out. "Surrender yourselves or face harsh military action," came the words in Arabic, Hazim said.

Those who had barricaded themselves inside responded with gunfire from the upper floors, witnesses and neighbors said.

"It began as gunfire and then it became a battle," said Nasser Hazim, Ahmed's brother. More troops arrived, until there were more than 200 soldiers surrounding the house and throughout the area.

Then the Kiowa helicopters came. "They mowed everything down," Nasser Hazim said.

Six hours after it began, the bodies of Uday, Qusay and two others were carried out of the villa.

And what of the man who harbored them? An American commander said the person who tipped US forces was in protective custody in Iraq. When asked why, Col. Joe Anderson, commander of the US Army's 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, said: "People know who own the house, so that's a factor." He refused to say whether the tipster and the owner of the villa were the same person.

Muhhamad was always open about his ties to Saddam, neighbors said, and that had caused tension. Saddam threw Muhhamad's elder brother in jail, reportedly over a tribal disagreement, but released him 18 months into a 17-year sentence. *AP*

3 more US soldiers killed

BAGHDAD—Three US soldiers died in northern Iraq on Thursday in the second fatal attack on troops from the 101st Airborne Division since they killed Saddam Hussein's feared sons Uday and Qusay in a fierce bombardment.

Washington had hoped the deaths of the brothers, killed on Tuesday when 200 soldiers pounded their hideout in Mosul, would end a guerrilla war that has claimed 44 US lives since President George W. Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

A US military spokesperson said three soldiers from the 101st Airborne were killed on Thursday near Mosul by guerrillas firing small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

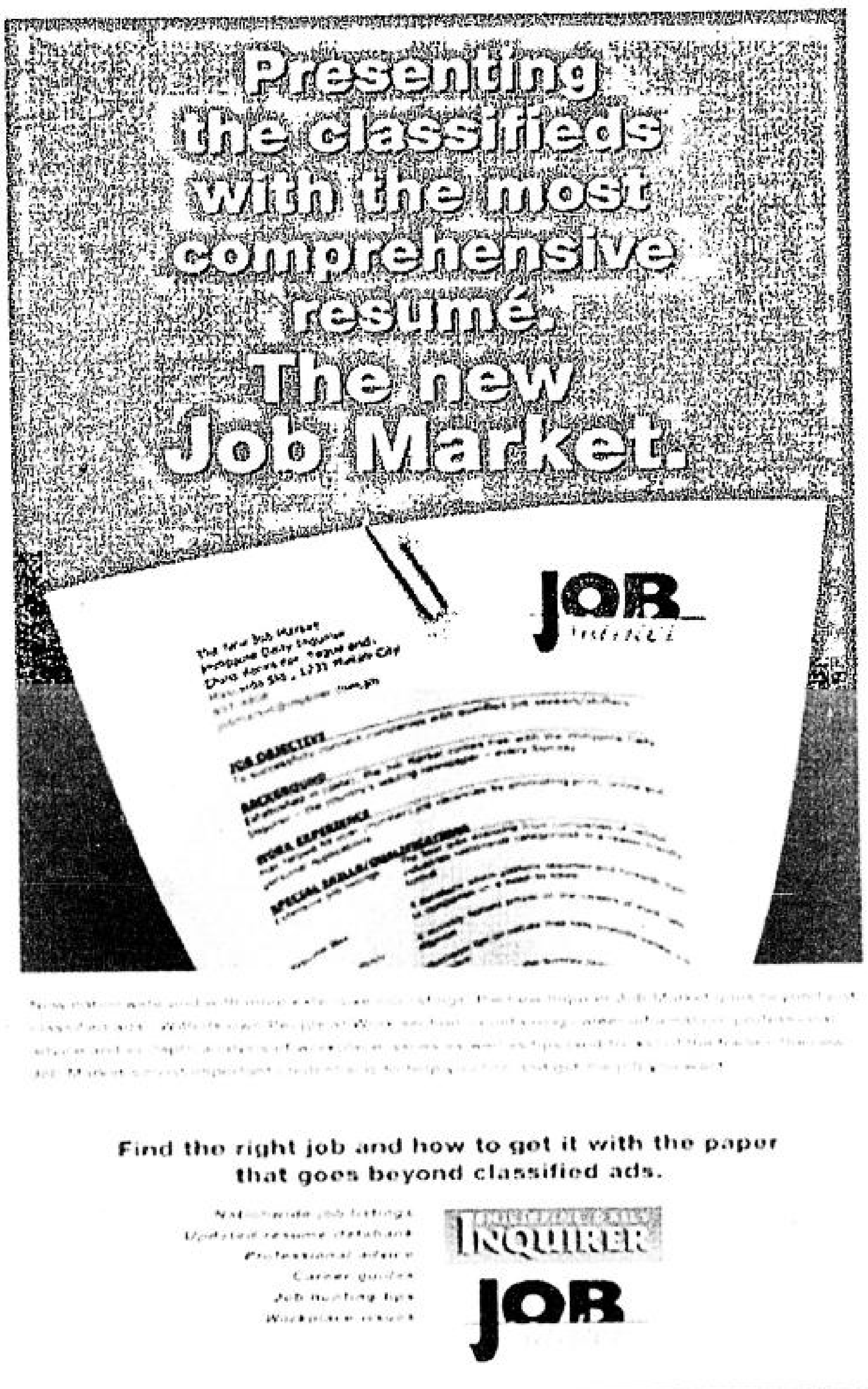
On Wednesday, one soldier from the division was killed and seven wounded when two vehicles hit a mine on the outskirts of the city.

In a separate ambush on Wednesday, a soldier was killed and two injured in an attack in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, a hotspot in the "Sunni triangle" where many still support Saddam.

Five US soldiers have now been killed since the deaths of Uday, 39, and Qusay, 37, Saddam's heir apparent.

US officials had warned of the risk of revenge attacks, and Al Jazeera television aired footage of masked men with rifles and grenade launchers vowing vengeance. "We will make them regret what they did to Uday and Qusay," one said.

But Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of ground forces in Iraq, said the killing of the brothers would demoralize guerrillas and help tighten the noose around Saddam, who has a $25 million price on his head. *Reuters*



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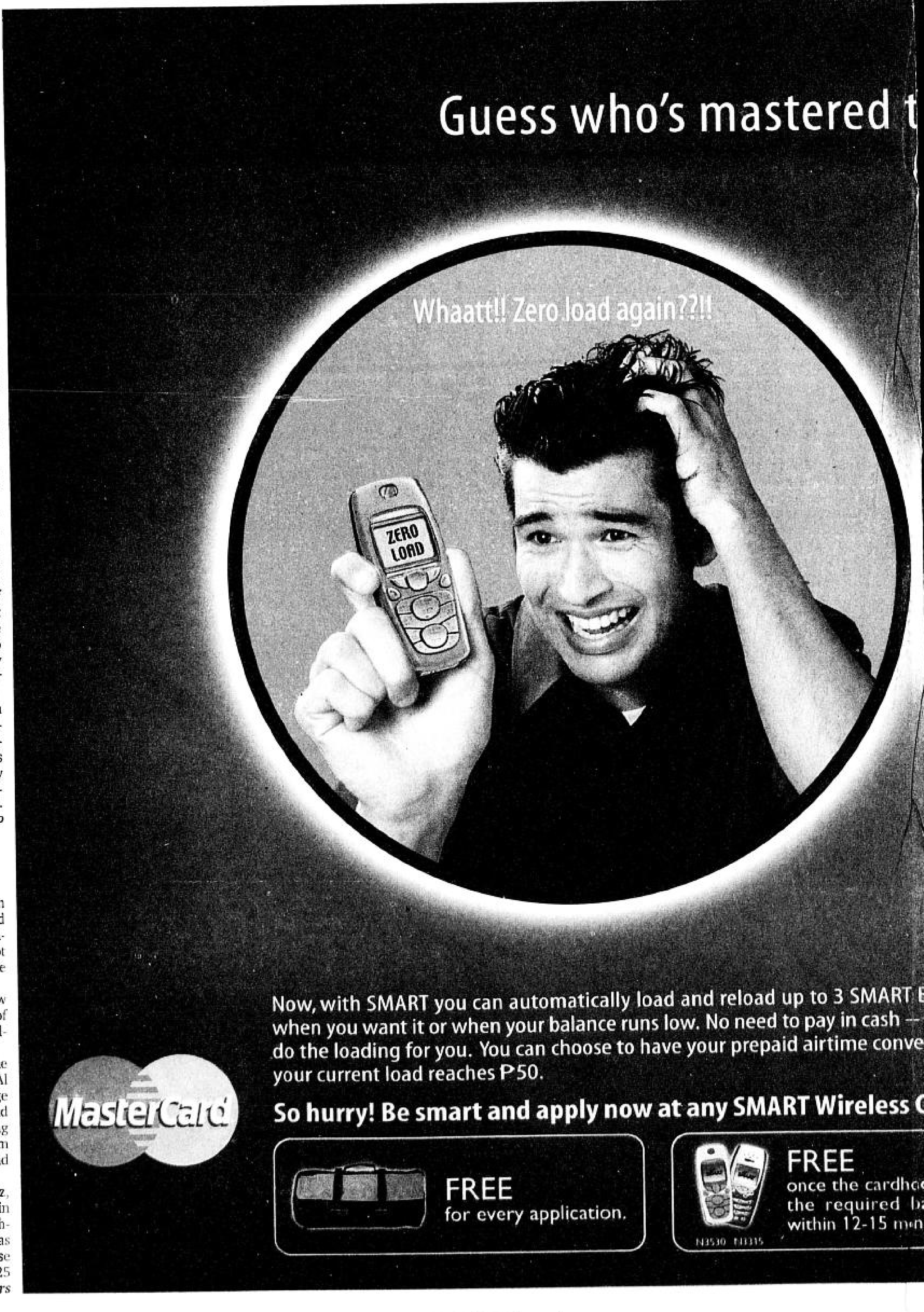

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CIA, FBI blamed in 9/11 probe

WASHINGTON—A US congressional commission that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks will release Thursday a long-awaited report expected to severely criticize the failings of intelligence services and leave unanswered questions about the role of Saudi Arabia.

The 800-page document is "compelling and galvanizing and will refocus the public's attention on Sept. 11," said Tim Roemer, a former Democratic Congressman from Indiana, who was a member of the House Intelligence Committee until the end of 2002.

"Certain mistakes, errors and gaps in the system will be made clear," said Roemer, who is one of 10 members of an independent commission put together by the White House to investigate events leading up to the attacks.

The report will also present a coherent chronology of ignored warnings or other signs not shared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency in the months preceding the terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon building in Washington.

The document will also indicate that high-ranking officials at the White House had been informed during the summer of 2001 of possible plans by the al-Qaida terror network to hijack commercial airliners and to launch a spectacular attack, according to congressional sources.

This information was already leaked to the press at the time of the congressional investigation last year.

Eleanor Hill, the person in charge of a team of congressional aides who drafted the voluminous report said, without going into details, that there will be "new information" in connection to disclosures made last year in nine public hearings held by the House-Senate commission, as well as its 13 closed-door sessions.

"This inquiry has uncovered no intelligence information in the possession of the intelligence community prior to the attacks of Sept. 11 that if fully considered would have provided specific advance warning of the details of those attacks," The Wall Street Journal wrote Wednesday, quoting a person who had access to the document.

The document again raises questions about the role of Saudi Arabia in the events leading up to Sept. 11—16 out of the 19 hijackers were Saudi nationals.

But the answers partly remain ambiguous because the White House refuses to declassify 28 pages of the report devoted to this subject, said Democratic Sen. Bob Graham, a former chair of the Senate intelligence committee now running for president.

According to Graham, the White House is using the national security argument to avoid publishing this section and thus embarrassing a key ally in the Gulf region.

Congressional investigators believe the FBI could have missed crucial indications as it looked into ties between two Sept. 11 terrorists who lived in San Diego, California, and whose names appeared on a watch list—and Saudi citizen Omar Al-Bayoumi, from whom they had received money.

According to Newsweek magazine, before contacting the two would-be terrorist, Al-Bayoumi paid a visit to the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles.

AFP

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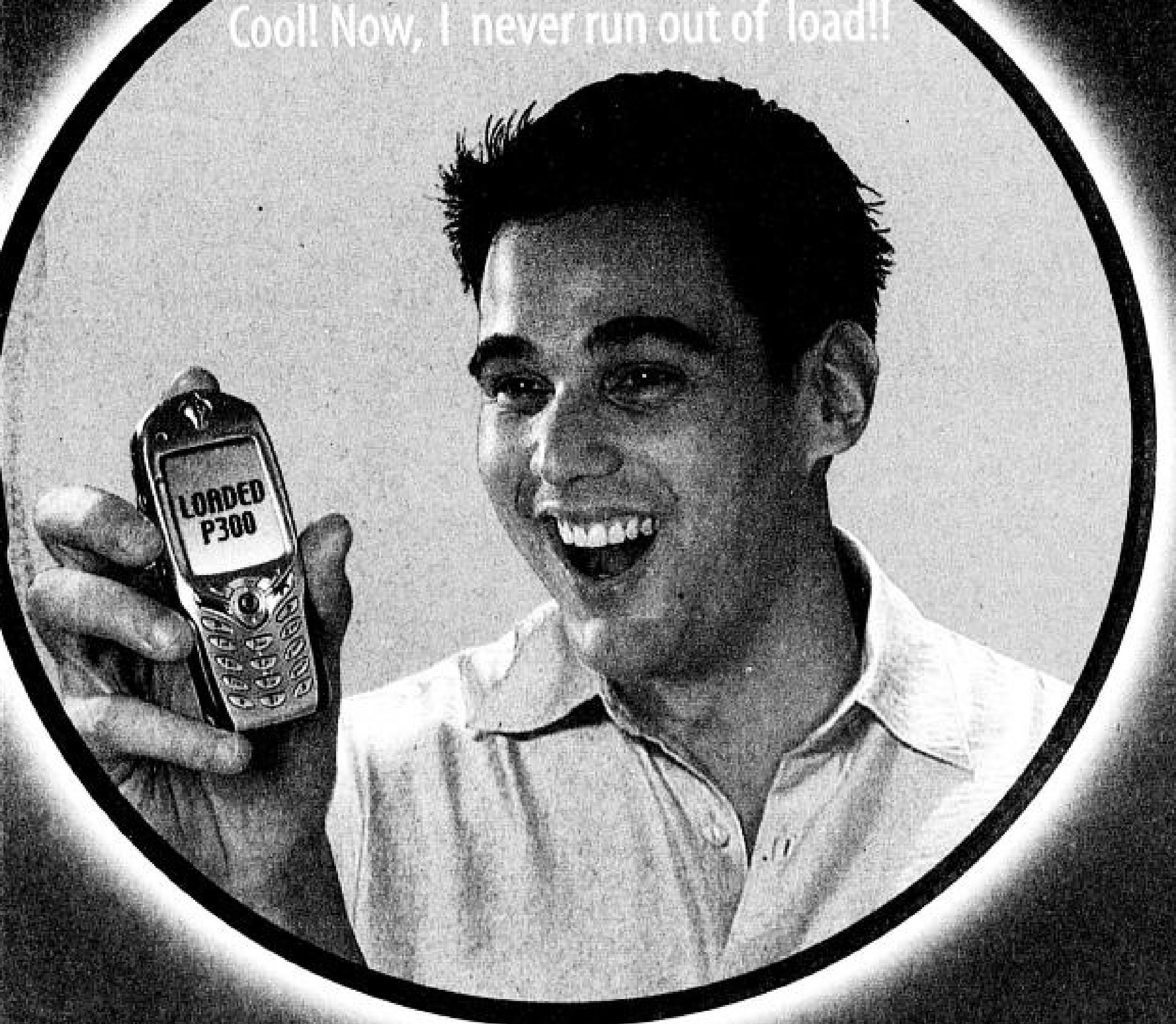
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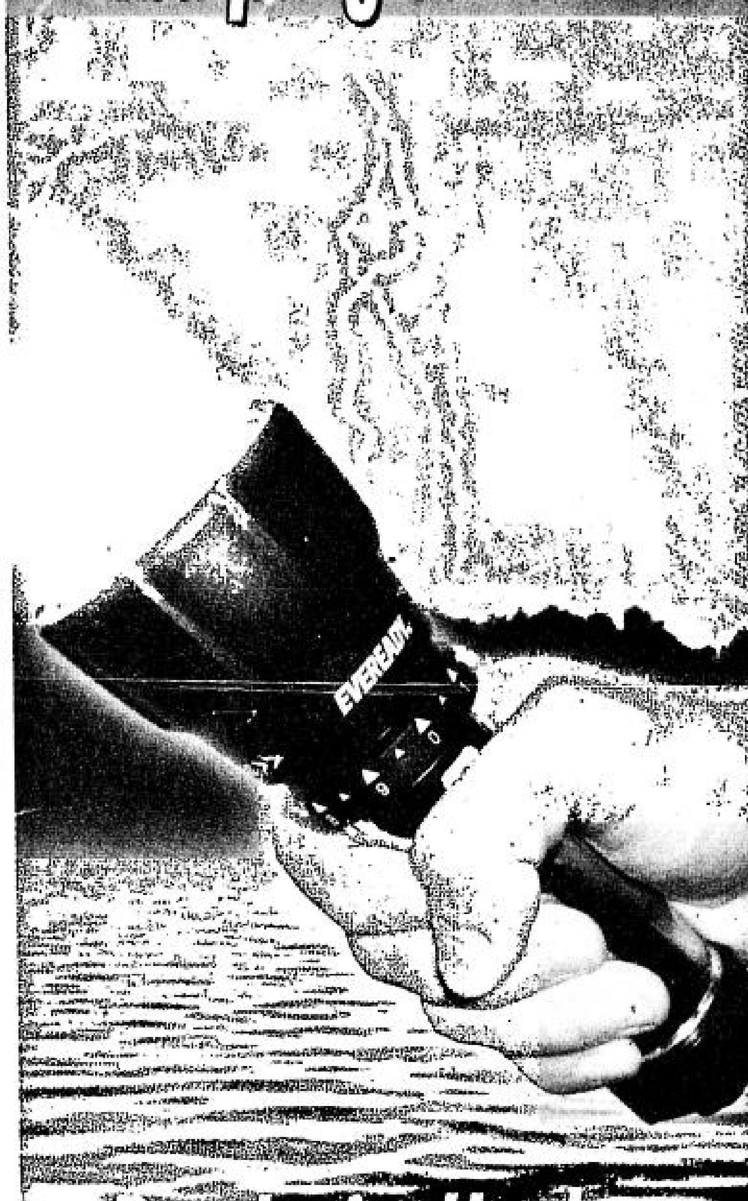

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Meet demands of Bhopal victims, 18 US solons tell Dow Chemical

WASHINGTON—Eighteen US lawmakers Wednesday are demanding Dow Chemical Co. meet the demands of Indian victims of a deadly 1984 gas leak at a pesticide factory in Bhopal.

Union Carbide owned the factory at the time of the disaster, in which thousands died. Dow acquired Union Carbide in 2001, by which time the plant had been sold to new owners.

"The disaster in Bhopal continues and is likely to worsen if Dow Chemical does not step forward to fulfill its responsibilities," the members of Congress said in a July 21 letter to Dow chief executive William Stavropolous.

They called on Dow to ensure the appearance of a Union Carbide representative at ongoing criminal proceedings in India; provide medical and economic rehabilitation; clean up contamination around the plant and provide alternative supplies of drinking water.

Dow spokesperson John Musser said Wednesday the company had yet to receive the letter but rejected any responsibility.

"The whole issue was settled more than a decade ago," Musser said.

"There is no remaining liability for either Union Carbide or for Dow."

Leading the congressional support are Democratic Representatives Dennis Kucinich of Ohio, who is seeking the party's 2004 presidential nomination, and India Caucus member Frank Pallone of New Jersey.

Bhopal activists welcomed the lawmakers' move.

"After 18 years, it's high time that the company demonstrated some accountability, and we're happy that so many members of Congress have called on Dow to do just that," Krishnaveni Gundu, US coordinator for the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal, said Wednesday.

Her group arranged talks in May between legislative staff and two women who survived the Bhopal disaster.

It also is trying to revive a 1999 class action suit seeking damages for environmental harm. A federal judge in New York has twice tossed out the case.

Some 8,000 people died within three days of the Bhopal disaster in December 1984, and local officials have said some 20,000 have since died from related causes.

In all, 500,000 people are said to have suffered from the effects of poisoning.

Union Carbide paid $470 million in damages under a 1989 settlement with the Indian government that the country's Supreme Court endorsed as fair two years later, said Dow's Musser.

Union Carbide sold its remaining Indian assets in 1994 and donated the proceeds, some $90 million, so the government could set up a hospital to treat Bhopal victims, he added. *AFP*

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Bush must accept fault in intel flap—Democrats

WASHINGTON—The White House on Wednesday defended a senior aide who took blame for US President George W. Bush's now-discredited charge that Iraq sought African uranium, but Democrats said Bush must accept responsibility.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said Bush remained confident in his deputy national security adviser, Stephen Hadley. Hadley said on Tuesday he had overlooked CIA memos casting doubt on the intelligence underlying the uranium charge, which Bush used to bolster his case for invading Iraq.

"Steve Hadley is someone with great experience and expertise and the president has great confidence in the job he's doing," McClellan told reporters.

Democratic criticism continued, however, with calls for Bush to clear up public "confusion" and for Hadley to resign.

"Now might be a good time for the president to hold a press conference simply to answer all these questions," said Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

Democratic presidential hopeful Howard Dean insisted that anyone who misled Bush should resign and urged an independent investigation of the disputed charge in Bush's January State of the Union address that Iraq tried to buy African uranium.

Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, also seeking the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination, said Bush must take responsibility for using "flawed intelligence."

"George W. Bush's credibility gap is growing," Kerry said.

McClellan dismissed the criticism from Democrats, saying Bush "takes responsibility for the case he outlined" against Iraq.

Hadley is responsible for reviewing security issues in Bush's speeches. He said Tuesday he had recently rediscovered two CIA memos he received ahead of a Bush speech in October.

The memos asked that the African uranium charge be removed.

The passage was struck, but Hadley said he forgot the CIA objections when reviewing the State of the Union speech.

In the run-up to the US-led invasion, Bush cited Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction programs in making the case for war, though no such weapons have been found since Saddam's government was toppled April 9.

Earlier this month, CIA Director George Tenet said his agency had cleared the State of the Union speech and should have removed the claim that Iraq was seeking uranium from Africa for nuclear weapons.

Documents backing the claim were shown to be forged, although Britain, cited by Bush in speech as the source for the accusation, has said it had additional sources substantiating the claim.

"Those who included this faulty information in the president's address know who they are and should resign immediately," Dean said in a statement on Tuesday night. *Reuters*

Boston Church responsible for sex abuse, report says

BOSTON, Massachusetts—A "culture of secrecy" in the Boston Catholic Church was responsible for six decades of sexual abuse by clergy that may have claimed more than 1,000 child victims, Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly said Wednesday.

"The mistreatment of children was so massive and so prolonged that it borders on the unbelievable," Reilly said as he released the report on a 16-month investigation into sexually abusive priests in the Boston archdiocese.

Reilly said the archdiocese's own records documented that 789 victims had come forward since 1940 with allegations of abuse against 237 priests—numbers that highlight the "inexcusable failure" of Church leaders to put a stop to the mistreatment.

"When information from other sources is considered, the number of alleged victims who have disclosed their abuse likely exceeds 1,000," the report said.

The report detailed a "culture of secrecy" within the archdiocese that was more concerned with protecting abusive priests and the reputation of the Church from scandal, than with protecting the children at risk.

The attorney general voiced his intense disappointment that the statute of limitations and weak child protection laws had prevented the filing of criminal charges against senior members of the archdiocese for negligence.

"We worked hard, we tried... the bottom line is the laws in existence at the time were not enough," he said.

Nevertheless, the report made it clear that the ultimate responsibility lay with leaders like Cardinal Bernard Law and his officers who had allowed sexually abusive priests to be transferred from parish to parish in order to avoid scandal.

Law resigned as head of the archdiocese in December.

"Any claim by the Cardinal or the archdiocese's senior managers that they did not know about the abuses suffered by, or the continuing threat to, children in the archdiocese is simply not credible," the report said.

Reilly also condemned the legal obstacles the Church sought to put in the way of his office's investigation that began in January, 2002.

"The archdiocese was clearly within its legal rights to do what it did... but it was not worthy," he said.

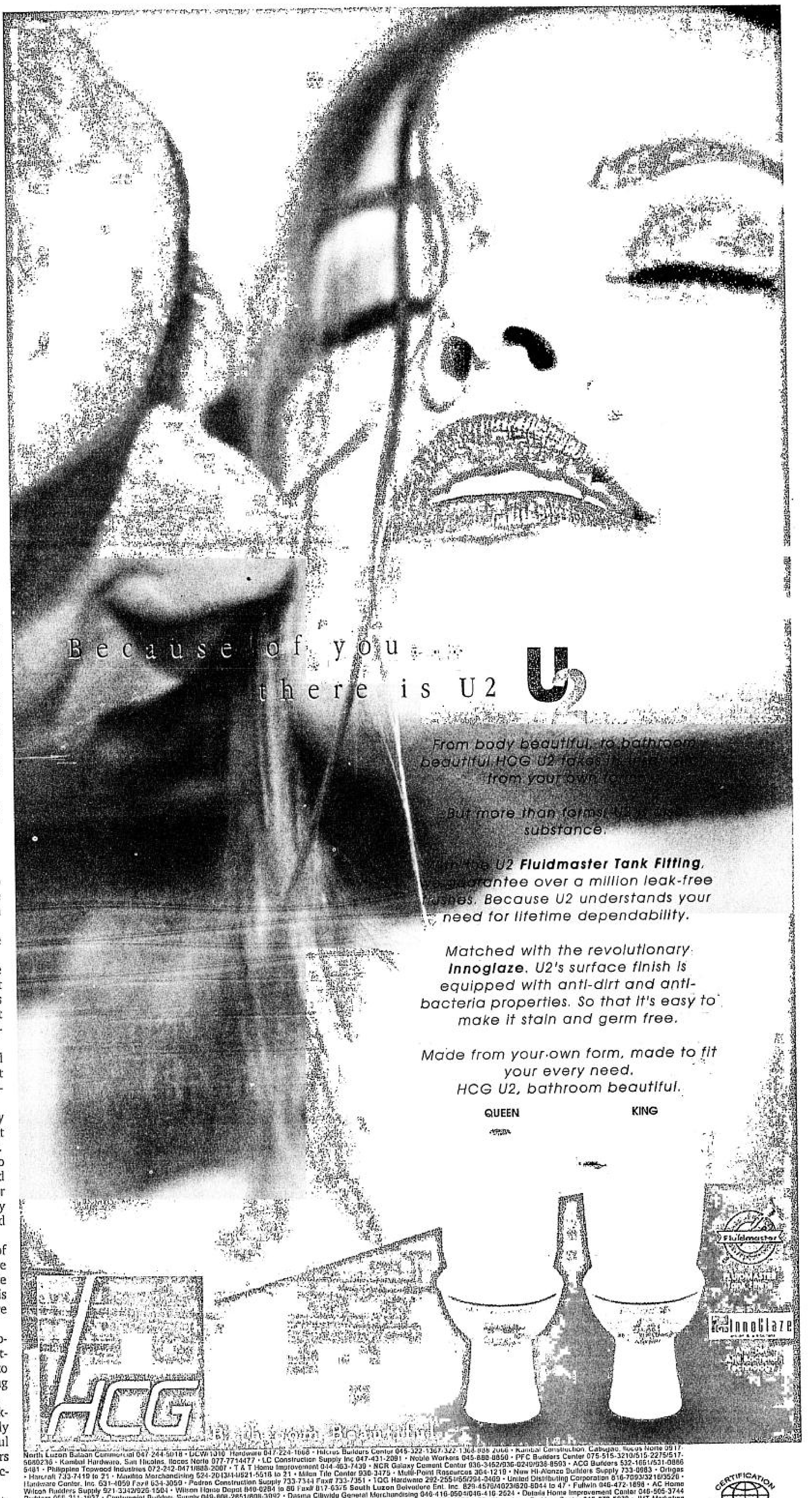
The attorney general went on to warn that, while no evidence had been uncovered of any ongoing or recent child abuse, it was too early to conclude that the abuse had stopped or would nor re-occur.

"The institutional acceptance of abuse has been part of the culture of management of the archdiocese of Boston for many years. And this has gone on far too long to believe that it has changed," he said.

On Tuesday, two dozen protestors had gathered outside the attorney general's downtown office to express outrage that no ranking church officials would be indicted.

"We demand; we are not asking, that Attorney General Reilly find ways to indict," said Paul Baier, president of Survivors First, an advocacy group for victims of clergy sex abuse.

The protestors delivered letters to Reilly and Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, denouncing what they said was a "political" decision and the state's "deference" to the church. *AFP*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Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

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Danding woos backing of leaders in North

URDANETA CITY—"It's nice to be wealthy but money is not everything," former Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco said here on Tuesday.

He said that when everything is said and done, it's the man's reputation in the next generations that will matter more than his richness.

"When I'm dead and buried, I do not want the next generation to tell my (grandchildren), *'Yong lolo mo, walang kuwenta dahil walang ginawa para sa bansa'* (your grandfather was good for nothing because he did nothing for the country)," Cojuangco told reporters.

Since he has money, Cojuangco said he was not "after a job" if he runs for president in 2004.

But he insisted he has not made up his mind whether he would run or not, despite the declaration of support he got from local government officials of Pangasinan.

During consultation with local officials and multi-sectoral groups here that looked like a political rally, local officials, led by Gov. Victor Agbayani, Vice Gov. Oscar Lambino, congressmen and mayors, took turns convincing Cojuangco that he was needed by the country as president.

Agbayani said he believed that Cojuangco was the man who "can lead Filipinos to achieve their aspirations, who can bring the Filipinos to the promised land of peace, prosperity and unity."

He said he shared the aspirations of the Lakas-Nationalist People's Coalition to remain strong in the coming months but even to gain more followers and allies before the 2004 elections.

But Cojuangco told reporters that there was really no coalition between the two political parties except in the House of Representatives.

"We are not part of the rainbow coalition so we do not nominate secretaries or other officials. Our participation is only in the House and we have been cooperative," he said.

He also took a dig at President Macapagal-Arroyo's supporters who are saying that the two are having talks about their presidential plans.

He said: "I have not talked with her. The President is president.

She does not need to consult with upstarts like me. (If I run), I will run against everybody. *Mayroon bang* candidate who would say 'I will run if you will not run?'"

He also declared that if he runs, he will run under the NPC. "But if they want to help, they are welcome," he said.

Cojuangco added that he was willing to be the "sacrificial goat" if it is what it takes for the opposition to unite and support only one presidential candidate in 2004.

Cojuangco, who was here on invitation of the Biskeg Pangasinan (Strength of Pangasinan), a coalition of local officials, said a true leader must sacrifice as long as the candidate of the opposition will share the ideals and aspirations of other candidates. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Shrimp fry smuggling seen as drug front

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—The tale goes on for the 44 boxes of smuggled shrimp fry shipped from Taiwan and seized at the Laoag International Airport earlier this month.

After being misdeclared as *bangus* fry, the boxes could have contained liquefied shabu as some of the plastic bags bore no fry but only clear and odorous liquid.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan Jr. raised this suspicion and vowed to have the smuggling investigated by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

"It is possible that those are liquid shabu because why would anyone send boxes with nothing but water? What is its commercial value?" Ablan asked here on Tuesday.

Ablan, vice chair of the House committee on dangerous drugs, said he has started gathering pieces of evidence on the identities of the cargo shippers and the aircraft's ground handlers.

He warned that the airline operator's license would be canceled once it was proven they connived with the shippers.

The shipments were declared in the cargo manifest as containing fish fry and consigned to one Jimmy Ramos of Valenzuela City.

One Lee Huang Jin-Bao shipped the seized fry amounting to P1.1 million through the Far Eastern Air Transport from Kaoshiung, Taiwan.

Ablan also raised suspicion of collusion between the local Bureau of Customs officials and cargo handlers, saying the smuggled shipments were the fifth seized in six months this year.

"Who are escorting these shipments? Customs officials stage a scripted confiscation of these cargo, turn these over (to La Union) and then these will disappear," he said.

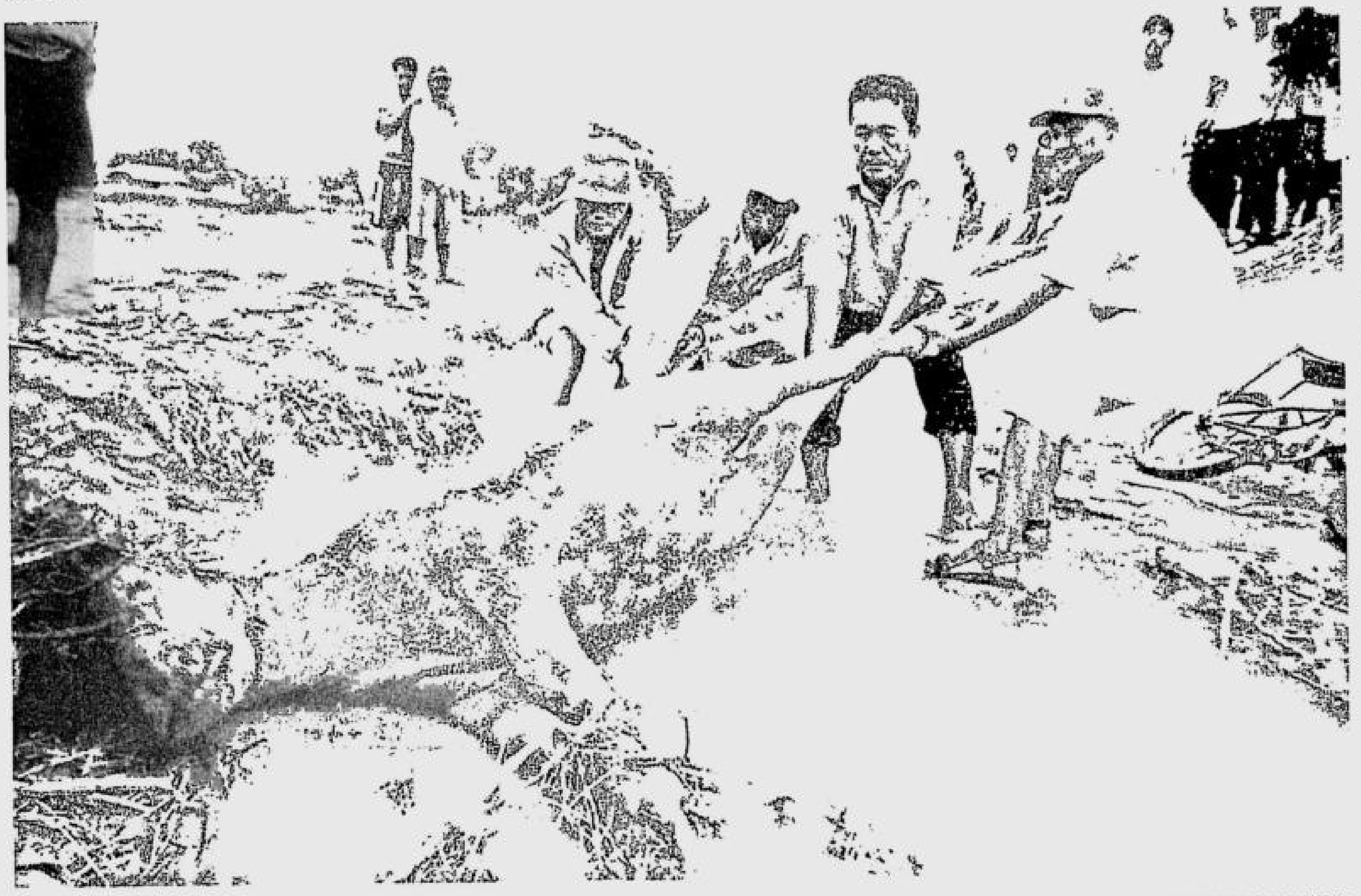
Lacson relives days in Cebu

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson said his more than two years' stay in Cebu taught him that "good and honest performance of a public servant could be appreciated and revered by the people."

Speaking before the Rotary Club of Metro Cebu at the Marriott Hotel here, Lacson, in a statement, said it was in Cebu where he found goodwill "not only among Metro Cebu Rotarians but between me and the people of Cebu as well."

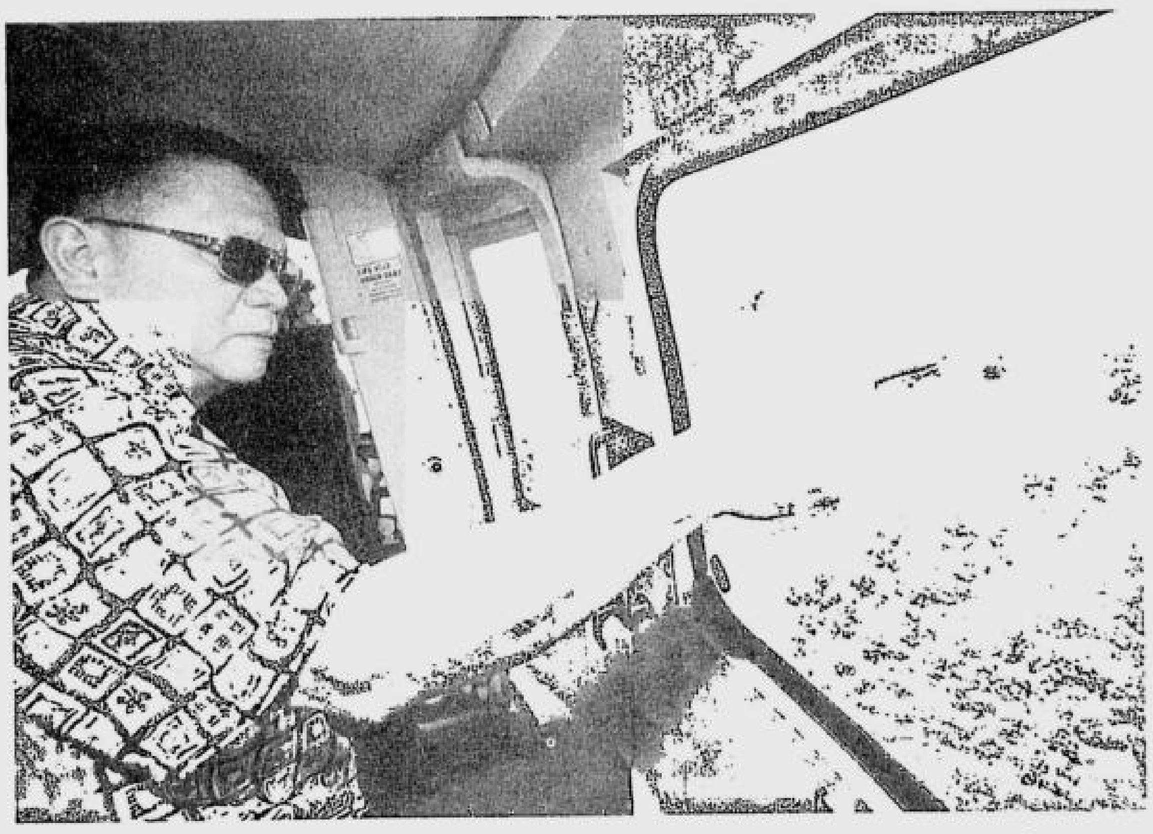
Lacson said since he decided to join politics in 2001, it was also in Cebu where he encountered "decent and professional members of the media."

"That inspiration has served me well," he said.



VAL HANDUMON/PDI PHOTO

BAD WEATHER
Townsfolk in Barangay Sibot, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija pull out a carabao's carcass amid the debris from the damage wrought by typhoon "Harurot." Below, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes views the damage from above aboard a government helicopter.



10 Mindoro execs seek suspension of gov

TEN officials from Occidental Mindoro have filed a complaint against their incumbent governor before the Office of the President, accusing the governor of grave misconduct, gross neglect of duty, abuse of authority and conduct prejudicial to the service.

Vice Gov. Ramon Atienza and provincial board members Cesar Tria Sr., Ernesto Jaravata, Manuel Mintu Jr., Randolf Ignacio, Fe Legaspi, Henry Lanada, Peter Alfaro, Arnold Abeleda, and Inocencio Fabular asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to place Gov. Jose Villarosa under preventive suspension while charges are being heard against him.

In their complaint before the Office of the President, they accused Villarosa of implementing multimillion-peso infrastructure projects using the 20 percent development fund of the provincial government without authority from the provincial board.

On Feb. 26, 2002, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan passed a resolution requiring the executive body to seek approval first for budget allocation of projects before their implementation.

Villarosa vetoed the resolution, saying its passage was an encroachment upon the prerogatives of the executive body on March 8, 2002.

Villarosa had been linked to the murders of brothers Paul and Michael Quintos on Dec. 13, 1997 and on April 29, 1998, Villarosa posted a P400,000 bail after he was charged with involvement in the killings.

Villarosa had been linked to the killings by two other suspects.

Cebu cops form team to probe ambush of judge

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Cebu City police has formed a team that will solve the murder attempt on Judge Leopoldo Canete of the regional trial court in Lapulapu City, Mactan Island, Cebu.

Senior Supt. Cecil Ezra Sandalo said he designated Chief Insp. Marvin Sanchez, chief of the city's vice control section, to head the team.

The team started their investigation by looking into the cases being handled by the judge.

Canete was bringing his two daughters to school on Tuesday morning when unidentified suspects fired at his vehicle on Justice Street, Peace Valley Subdivision in Barangay Lahug.

Fortunately, a taxicab passed by, blocked the judge's vehicle and took some of the bullets intended for Canete.

The judge suffered a bullet wound in the right knee. His daughter Paula Katrina, 15, suffered bruises in the left thigh. His other daughter Kathleen Anne, 17, was unhurt.

After the ambush, Sandalo immediately ordered the deployment of two policemen as the judge's bodyguards.

He said it was normal for judges to have enemies because some of the decisions that they issue would offend people.

GenSan cops told: Arrest drug dealers

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. has told police to focus on arresting drug lords and members of drug syndicates instead of spray-painting the houses of suspected drug pushers and users.

Acharon said spray-painting would not solve the drug problem, it would just put the entire family of a suspected drug pusher in shame.

"If the police really want to address the drug problem, they should focus on identifying, arresting, then filing of appropriate charges against the suspected drug pushers and users. There is no substitute to excellent police work," he said.

He, however, expressed his satisfaction on the performance of the police and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) as far as the anti-illegal drug campaign is concerned.

The police and PDEA, he said, are performing well and there was no need to shame suspected drug pushers and users.

PDEA records showed that it was making an average of 50 arrests a month since the anti-illegal drug campaign throughout the country has been intensified.

Acharon warned members of drug syndicates to stop their illegal drug activities in the city.

"Maybe they are thinking that summary executions only take place in Davao City," the mayor said referring to a spate of killings involving suspected drug pushers and users in Davao City.

More than 80 persons linked to the illegal drug trade have been summarily executed by suspected members of a vigilante group in Davao City since last year.

"I don't tolerate summary killings but drug pushers should be aware about it. They are not welcome in this city," he said. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'Jueteng' waning, says Church poll

DAGUPAN CITY—If the survey of the Lingayen-Dagupan archdiocese on jueteng is to be believed, the illegal numbers game is on the wane not only in this province but also in other areas in Luzon and the Visayas.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, national chair of the Krusada ng Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, said jueteng operations went down by 30 to 40 percent.

But he expected the operations to escalate in the coming months as the presidential elections draw near.

"We know that a lot of voters cast their votes (according to the) money largesse and that the local and national elections are largely financed by jueteng money. So there is a big probability that jueteng will resurge soon," Cruz said.

He said the Krusada, which has 52 chapters all over the country, conducted surveys on jueteng operations in Luzon and the Visayas "to get a general picture of the jueteng situation in the country."

"The estimate is that jueteng went down by 30 to 40 percent, which is very good news," Cruz said, adding that the survey was done informally by Krusada members. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mindanao journalists meet on colleagues' killings

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—Journalists from northern and western Mindanao met here on Wednesday to grapple with the continued killings of their colleagues.

Attended by some 70 mostly community journalists in print and broadcast, the media dialogue unfolded amid the ongoing search for justice for the killing of Pagadian City broadcaster Edgar Damalerio.

Damalerio was gunned down near the Pagadian City police headquarters on May 13 last year.

The suspect, PO1 Guillermo Wapile, was allowed to escape moments after a warrant for his arrest was to be issued. He remains at large.

The dialogue's main sponsor, Center for Community Journalism and Development (CCJD), noted that the killings of journalists appeared to have become more frequent during the first half of the year.

On May 17, Apolinario Pobeda, a 35-year-old broadcaster, was shot dead by two men while he was on his way to radio station dwTI-AM in Lucena City, Quezon.

On April 29, John Villanueva, Jr., 53, announcer of radio station dzGB in Albay, was shot dead by still unidentified men in the town of Camalig.

The latest casualty is Tarlac opinion writer Bonifacio Gregorio, 55, who was gunned down July 8 in front of his house in La Paz town. He wrote a column for local weekly Dyaryo Banat, which is circulated in Tarlac province.

Work-related tension is high for provincial journalists especially those in regions where political clans are fighting.

The journalists' discussions is part of a series of media dialogues organized by CCJD since June this year with the theme, "Silencing Journalists, Suppressing the Truth? A Dialogue Series on Citizens' Right to Know."

The activity aims to examine more closely the implications that the murders have on people's right to know and for democracy itself, said Red Batario, CCJD executive director. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 438 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Al-Ghozi guard secured

From page A1

press, Heidemann hypothesized.

But in a statement released by the DFA at around 4 p.m. yesterday, Ople said it was PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. who had given him the assurance.

At around 6:35 p.m., Palmares was brought to the NBI offices. He arrived on board a green van with his lawyers. He was not accompanied by uniformed policemen.

The young police officer was in civilian clothes and was not handcuffed when he arrived. He also brought along several bags, presumably bearing his clothing and personal things.

NBI Interpol chief Ricardo Diaz met Palmares at the bureau's parking lot.

In the dark

Malacañang and police officials were in the dark about the basis for Ople's claim that Al-Ghozi would be recaptured in three days with the help of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

In Camp Crame, a ranking police official directly involved in the hunt for Al-Ghozi said he and his men have "very good leads" on the possible whereabouts of the Indonesian fugitive but not enough to predict that Al-Ghozi would be recaptured by tomorrow.

"If Mr. Ople is that confident about his information, maybe he has something that we don't have," said the official in a telephone interview.

Another police official said Ople may really have a very reliable source for the information.

"Given his stature, he would not be so foolish as to make such an announcement unless he was holding on to something very credible," he said.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said he was "not personally knowledgeable about such information."

Secretary Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process and chief government peace negotiator, also said he was not aware of any information about the MILF's knowing about Al-Ghozi's whereabouts.

SPO1 Palmares: "I am being made a sacrificial lamb." JOAN BONDOC

Ermita is known to be in touch with the MILF leadership and Malaysian government officials as negotiating teams from both sides are preparing to leave for Kuala Lumpur in the next few days for the opening of peace talks.

According to a source in Camp Crame, Ebdane flew to Sarangani province yesterday after receiving reports that Al-Ghozi had been spotted there.

The source said Ebdane was trying his best to recapture any of the three high-profile terrorists in time for the President's State of the Nation Address on Monday.

Sacrificial lamb

In an interview with the INQUIRER at the Intelligence Group compound on Sunday, Palmares claimed that he was being made a "sacrificial lamb" in a supposed effort to save the neck of ranking police officials.

Among the damaging accusations he made was that the sergeant of the guards, SPO3 Ruperto Principe, had duped him into falsifying official records to make it appear that they had inspected the inmates' cells when in fact they had not.

Palmares said he could not check the cells when the jailbreak was initially reported to him because only Principe supposedly had the keys at that time.

Palmares, a fresh graduate of the police training school in the Cordillera who was assigned to guard the PNP's most dangerous inmates, also revealed that his superiors had asked him several times to leave the IG's old building at the time of the escape.

The rookie officer made these allegations after he was charged with infidelity in the custody of prisoners and falsification of public documents.

Ordoñez yesterday took Palmares' counteraffidavit just before he and other members of the fact-finding body inspected the IG's old building from which the fugitives escaped.

Ordoñez was accompanied by Miguel Varela of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and state prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullion.

It was not clear if Palmares included all the information he had divulged to the INQUIRER in his affidavit.

As a result of the escape, the New Zealand government has issued a travel warning against the Philippines, following similar advisories issued by the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom. *With reports from Leila Salaverria, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Philip Tubeza*

Elephants are illegal aliens?

From page A1

fall for the sedated elephant, did Uniprom personnel and traffic enforcers manage to bring it back to the Araneta Center.

In investigating the incident, PAWS discovered that the elephants' permit to stay in the Philippines had expired. The group wants the animals seized and brought to the Manila Zoo.

Felipe Bartolome, Customs District II-B collector based at the Manila International Container Port, threatened on Monday to seize the elephants if Uniprom failed to settle its obligations.

He said the elephants' surety bond of P77,846 expired on March 3, and Uniprom had yet to renew it.

In a letter to the company, Bartolome said the elephants' stay in the country had become illegal and was in violation of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines as amended, "sufficient to merit the issuance of warrant of seizure and detention."

Uniprom, particularly its vice president and arena officer in charge Manuel Atacador, could not be reached for comment. Atacador's office phone was attached to an answering machine.

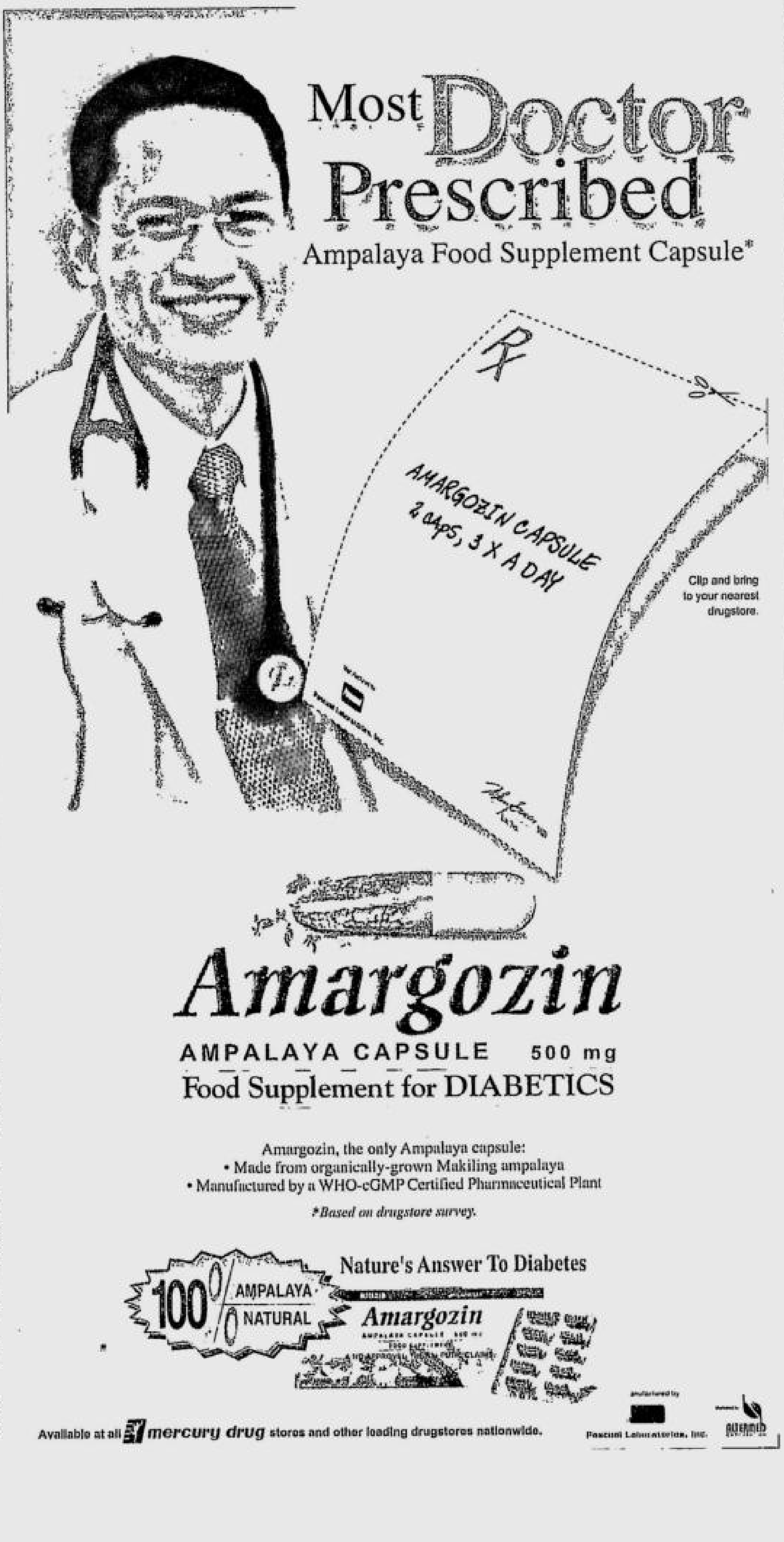
Following the code, Uniprom had paid a bond equal to one and a half times the ascertained duties and taxes on the elephants. When the bond expired, it should have re-exported the elephants and again paid corresponding duties and taxes worth P1,123,028.

Because Uniprom did not do this, Bartolome said, it clearly violated the terms and conditions of the Department of Finance's endorsement granting it the authority to bring in elephants without paying duties and taxes.

Bartolome also wrote separate letters to the environment department's Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau and the agriculture department's Bureau of Animal Industry to protect the government's interest by taking "appropriate steps against Uniprom for its blatant disregard of obligations."

It was the two departments which issued the registration and exhibition permits for the elephants.

The animals were exported to the Philippines by a certain Sieng Klangpattana. They are scheduled to be featured in shows at the Araneta Center's Elephant World Arena until September 2004.



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GMA: I'm assured of officers' absolute fealty

From page A1

It lost more ground in early trade yesterday, falling to 54.23 to the dollar. But it rallied to close at 53.95, its intra-day high.

The turnover of command of the 1st SRR—from Brig. Gen. Gabriel Ledesma to his deputy, Col. Danilo Lim, a former coup leader—was not part of the President's original schedule and was squeezed in yesterday morning before her flight to Isabela to visit the victims of typhoon "Harurot," a source said.

Ms Macapagal had dinner in Malacañang Wednesday night with the grumbling members of Classes 1994 and 1995 of the Philippine Military Academy. *(Story on Page A1.)*

But Malacañang was quick to downplay the significance of the meeting and dismissed insinuations that the coup rumors had spooked Ms Macapagal.

"I don't think the President is alarmed," her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing. "She is concerned about the plight of junior officers, as every commander in chief should know the situation of the men and women in the organization."

To prove that Ms Macapagal was not alarmed, Bunye said she started her day with a 9 a.m. meeting with some senior Palace officials, where she put the finishing touches to her State of the Nation Address to be delivered Monday.

"If there is something serious, the President would probably be here and not go out of town and attend to the victims of the typhoon," he said.

"We never talked about the reported coup. The President read some parts of her draft to get comments from the Cabinet members present during breakfast. There was no cause for alarm for any possible coups, whether today or the next few days."

Bunye said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, the subject of the complaint of the disgruntled officers, did not attend the Wednesday night dinner, probably because he was greeting Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando a happy birthday.

He said the meeting was sought by the young officers to personally air their grievances to the President, an accommodation she was willing to extend to any disgruntled sector.

He also said the Presidential Security Guard was on white alert to test the mettle of Ms Macapagal's protectors, not unlike a fire drill.

Downgraded alert

The military downgraded its red alert to white after ascertaining that the heavily armed troops who traveled on a ship from Zamboanga del Norte to Manila on Tuesday night were not out to destabilize the administration.

Officials had confirmed that some of the troops, consisting of Scout Rangers, Marines and Navy men, were set to undergo a refresher training on basic ranger course and special forces training in Bulacan and Nueva Ecija.

The 21 Scout Rangers, two personnel of the Navy's Special Warfare Group and Marine soldiers were escorted straight from the pier in Manila to the 1st SRR headquarters in Bulacan Wednesday night.

"The people who moved had legal travel papers; there was just some misimpression that they would take part in destabilization moves," Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief and spokesperson, said in a phone interview.

He said it was better for the military to plan one step ahead than be caught off-guard later.

The troops, who were in full battle gear, were held at a port in Iloilo, where their Superferry made a stopover on its way from Cagayan de Oro to Manila after arousing the suspicions of fellow passengers.

The military also lowered its alert status from red to white Wednesday midnight, following the exit of Harurot. "There's no need for it anymore. The typhoon is out of the country," Garcia said.

It was only hours earlier that members of PMA Classes '94 and '95, whose complaints about low pay, poor housing, and graft in the military had been reported in the media, had dinner with the President in Malacañang.

Grossly exaggerated

In a statement he issued yesterday, Defense Secretary Reyes said that dinner in Malacañang belied rumors of an impending coup.

"Rumors of a coup attempt, I must emphasize, are grossly exaggerated. The President even had dinner in Malacañang last night with some 100 members of the two PMA classes that are said to be restive," he said. "You don't take over Malacañang Palace holding spoons and forks,"

Reyes said the coup rumors were the handiwork of "unseen hands" that were "out to create anxiety and sow confusion."

"This thing has been blown out of proportion. Some people don't want this government to succeed. But we in the DND and the AFP will make sure that their sinister plans are thwarted," he said.

Reyes also swore continued support for the Constitution and the President.

"Maintaining political stability is our overriding concern amid the continuing threat of terrorism and armed insurgency," he said. "And I can assure you that the DND and the AFP stand united in defending the Constitution and the duly constituted authority, and in protecting our people and our democratic institutions from any harm."

Rhyme and reason

But Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff, said the administration should "put rhyme and reason to what [it is] doing in addressing the coup rumors."

He pointed out that despite its denials, the Palace had engaged in rather suspicious actions, including the investigation of soldiers who were merely headed for retraining or rest and recreation.

"Tightening security can only fan further the rumors, which is a disservice to the country. It is putting instability in the minds of the people and affecting our national economy," he said.

Biazon noted that when media reports on a possible coup came out, authorities cited rest and recreation and retraining as a justification for the troop movement.

"When the coup rumors persisted, the justification was typhoon Harurot," he said. "And when still the rumors refused to die down, the justification by defense officials was that it is standard operating procedure in preparation for the President's forthcoming Sona, which is still three days away."

The senator took Bunye to task for telling the media that "there is no reason for the President to be alarmed since no troop movement has occurred."

"In the first place, we don't know if there had been troop movement at all," Biazon said.

And yet, he said, Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, the AFP's public information officer, confirmed that the declaration of an alert status was an offshoot of the persistent coup rumors. Lucero later changed his statement.

Biazon cited the "physical actions of the AFP" that supposedly contradicted the official stand of Malacañang and the military. He said these were:

- The interrogation by police and the military in Iloilo of military personnel en route from Cagayan de Oro City to Manila for training.
- Suspicious troop movements in Metro Manila, the Visayas and Mindanao.
- Tightened security in Camp Aguinaldo, where soldiers in full battle gear were ordered to augment the camp military police in vehicle and passenger inspection at the gates.
- Sealing of all entry and exit points to Malacañang.
- Deployment of armored vehicles.

Pay bike for military in 2004 budget

By Clarissa S. Batino

TO APPEASE a seemingly restive officer class, the Macapagal administration has included in the proposed budget for 2004 a P2.9-billion provision to fund the increase in the salaries of over 100,000 military personnel.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said her department was finalizing the proposed 2004 General Appropriations Act.

The total 2004 budget would range from P850 to P870 billion--the higher amount would include the appropriation of the Marcos Swiss bank accounts for the agrarian reform program.

Boncodin said the 2004 budget would include the "other half" of the funding to cover the increase in salaries of military personnel. "The increase in the salaries of over 100,000 military members is covered by a P2.9-billion budget this year and next," said the budget chief.

Simple dinner by 16 'mistahs' triggered coup talk

From page A1

several days before.

Trillanes, who had graduated magna cum laude of Class '95, submitted a thesis on corruption in the Navy as a requirement for a master's degree in public administration at the University of the Philippines in 2002.

Class sources recounted his story: Sometime after the first dinner on July 11, Trillanes, in Tarlac on his way to Baguio, sensed that he was being followed. He immediately called a "mistah," who then advised him to proceed to the Presidential Security Group compound in Manila.

Upon his arrival at the PSG compound at 3 a.m., he was brought to the Palace where Ms Macapagal reportedly met him.

"It was the first time President Macapagal talked to a military officer that lasted about an hour," one source told the INQUIRER.

During that meeting, Trillanes reportedly told Ms Macapagal the "real score" about the coup rumors.

"Madam, if it will make you sleep better at night, I am willing to subject myself to custody of your trusted men to put an end to these rumors of destabilization," one source quoted Trillanes as telling the President.

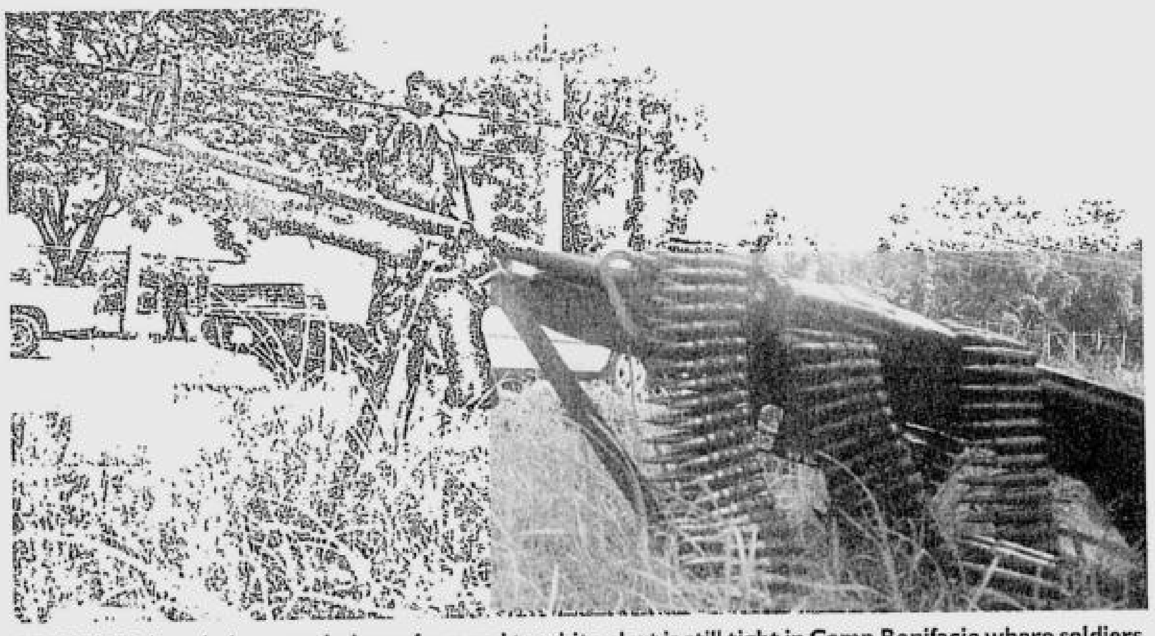
After the meeting with Trillanes, Ms Macapagal reportedly called Navy Flag Officer in Command Rear Admiral Ernesto de Leon, who then placed Trillanes under "house arrest" in the Naval Intelligence Security Forces (NISF) compound along with another mistah.

Trillanes attended the July 16 meeting, with an escort.

Abaya meeting

After a heated discussion, the officers decided to meet with AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya immediately. And they did, from 11 p.m. on July 16 to 1 a.m. the following day.

The class assured Abaya they were not involved in the destabilization rumors, contrary to the claims of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG).



SECURITY though downgraded now from red to white alert is still tight in Camp Bonifacio where soldiers double check all vehicles coming in and out of the area.

ERIK ARAZAS

After that meeting with Abaya, there were no other gatherings held.

But on July 22, a dinner invitation from Ms Macapagal reached "moderate members" (the chief executive's own term) of Class '94 and Class '95.

On Wednesday night, almost 100 officers from both classes—the alleged prime movers of a destabilization attempt—met with the President for more than two hours at the Heroes Hall in Malacañang Palace.

Sources said Ms Macapagal arrived at around 7:25 p.m.

She did not give any speeches, but instead walked straight to the dining table.

Ms Macapagal sat next to Army chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Nestor Santillan, and Admiral De Leon. They were beside Class '94 president Capt. Noel Tolentino, Class '95 president Capt. Segundino Orfiano and class secretary Capt. Ruel Rombaoa.

After sushi for cocktails, the officers were served Caesar's salad, cream of broccoli soup, prawns in garlic, peppered beef, as well as coffee, red and white wine.

Trillanes, who reportedly still receives death threats, did not attend the Palace dinner.

Speaking of the impossible

At least eight members of Class '95 work currently as aide-de-camps or security officers for major generals and lieutenant generals in the Army. One Navy officer works as an aide-de-camp of the President.

Some members are aides and security officers of commanding officers of the Southern and Northern Luzon commands. Another works for military intelligence, one is assigned in Central Mindanao, while two others are detailed with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Members of Class '95 were promoted to the rank of captain on March 4, 2003.

Ms Macapagal earlier ordered Abaya to create a grievance mechanism to address the officers' complaints. But some officers do not buy the idea of a "proper forum."

"Some corrupt senior officers will not love what we are doing but at least we are voicing our gripes," an officer told the INQUIRER.

"There is no proper forum in the military. General Abaya is speaking of the impossible," an Air Force captain who belongs to another class told the INQUIRER.

He said military officers would automatically be fired if they expose irregularities and corruption in the different branches of the service and in the organization as a whole.

"Or you will see no promotion," another officer said.

"You can say, no matter how you voice out your grievances it will not be given any solution. There is no forum for our grievances. No matter how the people in the field voice out their complaints, it will never be attended to," he said.

"Those people in the GHQ are enjoying the perks. Imagine all those people left behind in field?" he added.

"We suggest that the President immediately order now a lifestyle check among military officers, including those retired generals," an officer said.

"(But a) coup is out of the picture," he added.

GMA promotes general in Abu Lamitan escape

By TJ Burgonio

A GENERAL who was recommended by the Senate for court martial proceedings has been promoted by President Macapagal-Arroyo along with five other generals to the next higher rank.

Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez had come under investigation for the escape of the Abu Sayyaf bandits and their hostages from a military dragnet in Lamitan, Basilan two years ago.

Dominguez, currently the chief of the Northern Luzon Command based in Tarlac and a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (Class '71), was then commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division. He was one of three officers who were relieved and probed following the escape in June 2001.

After a series of hearings, the Senate recommended court martial proceedings against Dominguez and the two other junior officers last year. The three officers had flatly denied the charges.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief and spokesperson, said he saw nothing wrong with the promotion of Dominguez, saying "he has not been adjudged guilty" by the authorities.

Also promoted with Dominguez to the rank of lieutenant general were Major Generals Roy Kyamko of the Southern Command, Alfonso Dagudag of the Southern Luzon Command, Jacinto Ligot of the Central Command, and Ruben Domingo of the Western Command.

How to catch . . .

From page A1

"For example, you receive reports that a regional director of the DPWH has a mansion in a subdivision, with his mistress living there. What we do, we have law enforcement agency personnel check the place out," Marcelo said.

"We do surveillance in two weeks. That way, our lawyer can testify that the official really stays there, even though it is not listed in his name," he said.

It is crucial that a government agent—preferably a lawyer—does the sleuthing.

"It's our men who investigate so they are the ones who testify. They cannot be easily scared. Some (corrupt) officials put their properties in the name of their drivers, so you must have surveillance to show that they have beneficial use," Marcelo said.

But establishing that a particular government official has beneficial use of a property takes time and resources, something that the government sorely lacks, according to Marcelo.

He noted that his office had only 18 probers taken from an inter-agency group going after graft. The Office of the Ombudsman is asking for 10 more, but he needs about 100 personnel.

"We have more than 3,000 cases, but only 32 prosecutors," he said.

He said government "support is really lacking ... the institution is really weak. The problem is where money should come from."

What complicates things is the fact that grafters charged in court have the resources to get topnotch lawyers, according to Marcelo.

This is the reason the Office of the Ombudsman conducts "intensive training" for prosecutors and taps retired justices and good "trial lawyers" to help improve the competence of its personnel.

"The problem here is there is no stigma in the handling of graft cases by the defense counsel. So those handling cases in the Sandiganbayan are top law firms like Sycip, Siguion-Reyna and Accra," Marcelo said.

It's cremation for captain: Wife wins court case vs mother-in-law

From page A1

Lawyer Napoleon Arenas, Josie's counsel, said she had decided to file a motion for reconsideration.

Arenas said he wrote the management of the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park in Dagupan City, where Angeles' body has been kept in a freezer since July 14, asking them not to undertake cremation until the court issued a final decision on the case. He said the management agreed to wait for the court's decision.

Angeles was among the 13 government soldiers who were killed on June 30 during an encounter with New People's Army rebels in Compostela Valley.

Angeles' wife Claudine wanted to have the body cremated to fulfill the wish of her husband.

On the other hand, Josie wanted her only son buried in accordance with his Roman Catholic beliefs and asked the court to rule in her favor. Claudine earlier stressed that Angeles had already converted to a denomination of Born Again Christians when they were married in April.

Claudine moved for outright dismissal of her mother-in-law's petition on the ground of "lack of cause of action."

In the four-page order, Pastor noted that the court lacked the authority to make a judicial determination on the form of funeral rites. The authority rests on the surviving spouse, he said.

"The law is explicit, that in case of doubt, the form of the funeral shall be decided upon by the person obliged to make arrangements for the same, subject only to the requirement of prior consultation with the family," Pastor said.

Pastor's decision said Claudine took the witness stand on Monday and testified that on three occasions, her late husband told her of his desire to be cremated when he dies.

Claudine, who is two months pregnant, said the decision relieved her of extreme anxiety. But she said it could mend the strained relationship between her and her mother-in-law.

"I was never angry at her. I did not start this (scandal). I know the (case) would have estranged her from my family (in Baguio) but I feel there is now time to heal (the wounds)," she said.

Claudine said the scandal left her isolated because several of Angeles' mistahs (classmates) from the Philippine Military Academy Sanghaya Class of 2000, advised her to give way to the wishes of her mother-in-law.

She said Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, PMA superintendent, had offered "to cremate and then bury" Angeles at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Makati City.

Yesterday, she said she would pursue Adan's proposal as a sign of goodwill to Josie and her family. *With reports from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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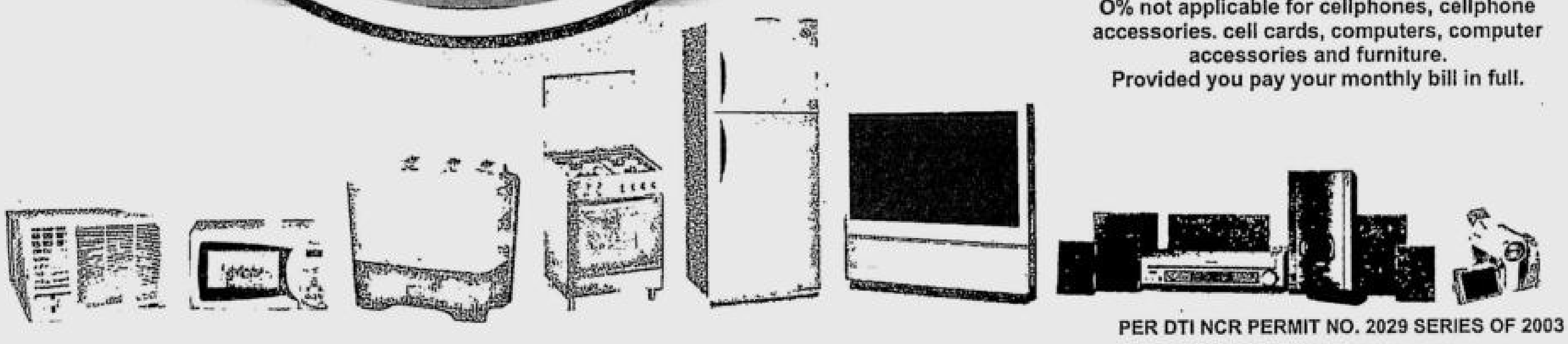

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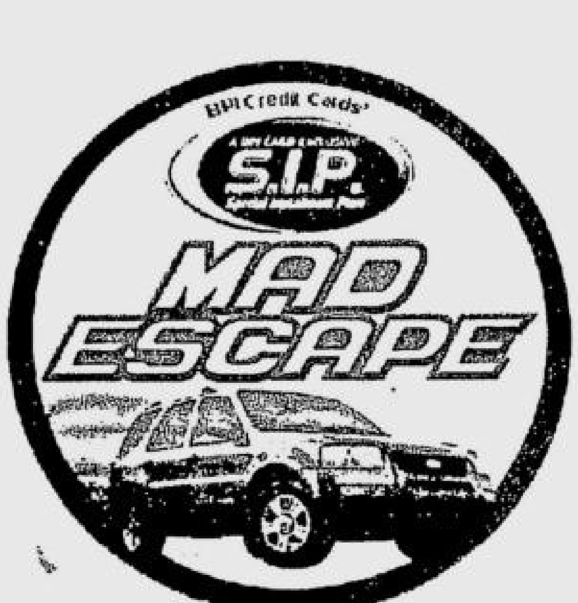

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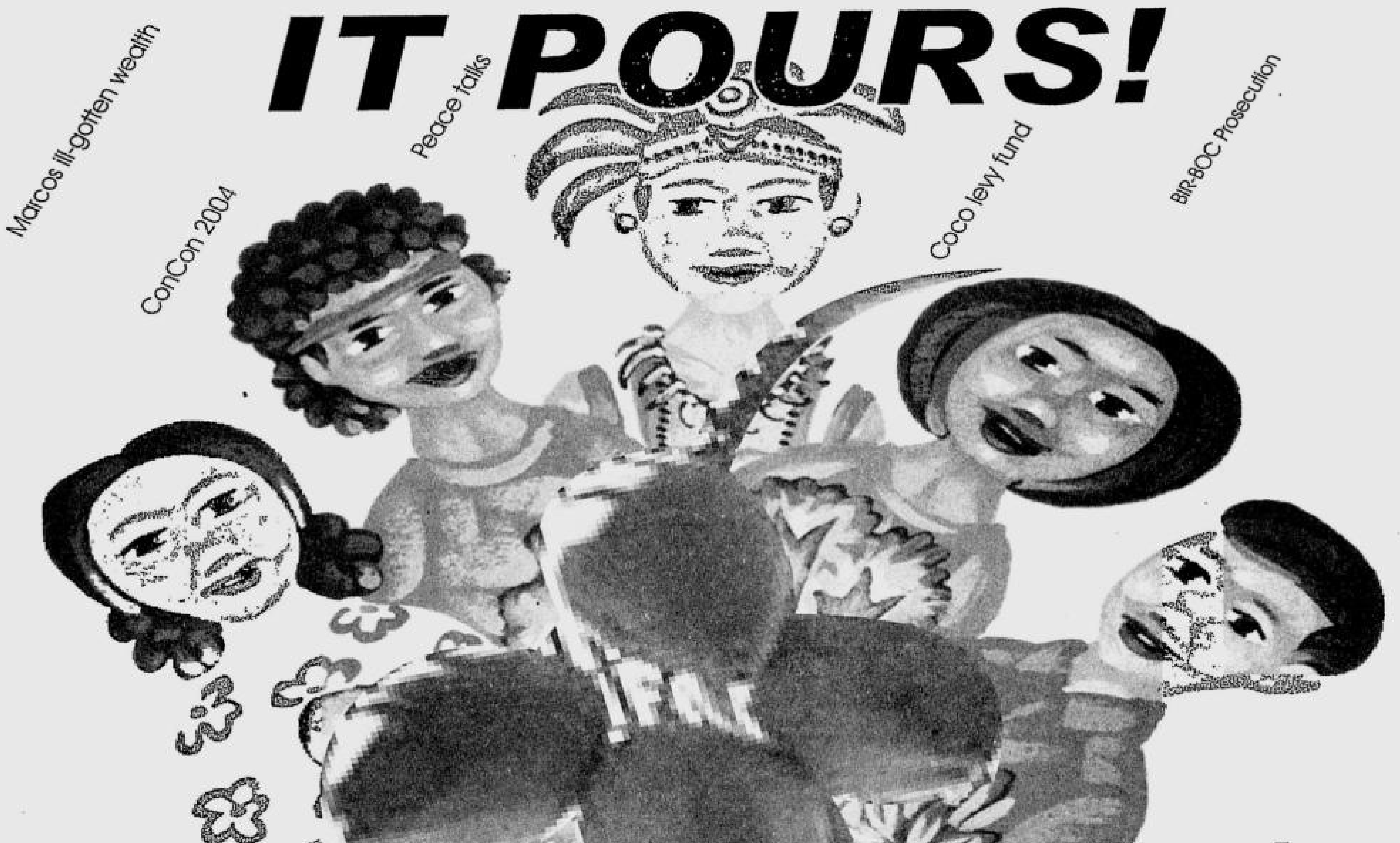

There is Hope in the Philippines!

A STATEMENT OF K12.30 ON THE FIVE BLESSINGS IN NINE DAYS

Justice delayed but when it comes…it pours! In nine days since Saturday, July 12, 2003 till Monday, July 21, 2003, the country was blessed with five great news!

First, the Sandiganbayan's decision forfeiting in favor of the government the multi-billion-peso coco-levy funds in UCPB illegally-acquired by Danding Cojuangco. **Second**, the Supreme Court decision declaring as ill-gotten the Marcos family's Swiss bank accounts worth 38 billion pesos now in an escrow account of the PNB in favor of government. **Third**, the Senate Committee's decision favoring elections of Constitutional Convention delegates on May 2004. **Fourth**, the President's decision calling for a ceasefire and the resumption of peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). **Finally,** the Department of Finance's prosecution for graft and corruption of four top officials of the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs.

These landmark and fundamental decisions have the potential to change the course of Philippine history! All five decisions are about social justice and about giving hope to the country especially the poor majority. They are all about remembering, healing, and putting a closure to a nightmarish past and about constructing, shaping, and energizing the future of a downtrodden, oppressed, and cynical people. They are all long-overdue but sweet and exhilarating decisions, nevertheless.

The Sandiganbayan' s decision on the coco levy promises to render justice to three million small coconut farmer-households who were taxed for nine years during Martial Law, which fund now has accumulated to around 130 Billion pesos. The Supreme Court decision gives the government the necessary funding to emancipate at least a million landless farmers tilling privately-owned agricultural lands but have remained landless and in bondage even after the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law promised them freedom fifteen years ago. At the same time, and at long last, the government can now also recognize and start to indemnify at least ten thousand victims forcibly detained and/or summarily executed by the Marcos dictatorship. The Senate decision provides an opportunity for broader people's participation in Constitution-making and in reforming our age-old ineffective unitary-presidential systems that contributed greatly to our continuing political and economic crises including the Erap crisis and the protracted war in Mindanao. The President's decision to resume peace talks with MILF opens the possibility not only for immediate relief to some 50,000 refugees but to ending the war itself that has cost the country immeasurable political, economic, cultural, and social anguish. Finally, the Department of Finance's decision to prosecute for graft and corruption four senior officials in its fold could trigger an avalanche to cleanse the bureaucracy of thieves that continue to deprive the people of hundreds of billion pesos worth of government services annually and undermine the moral fiber of both government and citizens.

We, the K12.30, a broad social reform-focused movement of various civil society groups in the country, would like to celebrate these hard-fought victories and do three things:

First, we would like to give our heartfelt **thanks** and **commendations** to the following: PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac and her equally committed and competent commissioners, Ruben Carranza, Vyva Aguirre, Vicky Avena, and William Dichoso; Office of the Solicitor General and its solicitors; the Ombudsman Sonny Marcelo; the Sandiganbayan First Division Associate Justices Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, Diosdado Peralta, and Francisco Villaruz; Chief Justice Hilario Davide and the entire Supreme Court; Department of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho; Senate President Franklin Drilon and ConCon colleagues; and finally, the President of the Republic, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo not only for ordering the resumption of peace talks with MILF but most especially for appointing Haydee Yorac and the Commissioners to the PCGG. They all redeemed the institutions they represent and made us all proud and hopeful for our country. But we would also like to give our bow and highest commendations, to the various small coconut farmers' organizations, people's movements, and individuals among them, Atty. Francisco Chavez and Fr. Bert Layson, who all struggled for social justice, peace and political reforms. They persistently fought a good fight and affirmed our long-held belief that in the end, truth and justice prevail. While conscious that we have not won the war yet, let us all savor, nevertheless, these sweet victories in five major battlegrounds and be re-energized and inspired to pursue the succeeding battles with more vigor and tenacity.

Second, we would like to **call** on the President and the Executive

--- speed up the process of taking over control of UCPB, SMC, and other companies built through the coconut levy and liquefy these assets to build a trust fund for the development of the small coconut farmers and the coconut industry as a whole;

---strongly advocate in Congress to allocate the newly acquired ill-gotten wealth to the difficult and persistently ill-funded Land Acquisition and Distribution (LAD) component of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, so we can finish distribution of big landholdings and those being pursued by farmers organizations before May 2004. Further delay in the land distribution process will result to prolonged misery and bondage of millions of farmer families, continuous insurgency and its consequent disruption to the economy among many others. There will always be money sourced from elsewhere for support services, but not for land distribution;

— pursue vigorously the acquisition of more ill-gotten wealth;

---immediately assist 50,000 evacuees to go home and rebuild their houses, their livelihoods, and their lives and to start discussion on proposals that have long term and systemic implications such as the idea of a federal system, to finally end the centuries-old protracted war in the South;
We also would like to call Congress to immediately pass a law and/or a joint resolution that will:

--- indemnify, in recognition of State's responsibility, the thousands of human rights victims under the Marcos dictatorship, identified through a rigid, transparent and fair screening process;

---reform our taxation and financial systems such as those stipulated in the NRA bill before year ends; and

--- ensure the elections of delegates to the Constitutional Convention by May 2004.

Furthermore, we call on the Sandiganbayan and Supreme Court to expedite not only the process of transferring the coco levy assets and the Marcos ill-gotten wealth to the government, and eventually to the rightful beneficiaries, but also in ensuring that those who committed the crimes be put behind bars;

Given the momentum set by these initial victories, we call for other measures to be pursued by government such as the immediate release of the "State of Automation Report" for more transparency in the computerization of elections, the broadening of access to urban poor housing, broad and multi-sectoral consultation on the country's position on agricultural trade liberalization before the new WTO round in Cancun, the stoppage of the Land as Collateral Bill, immediate delineation of municipal waters for small fishers, the speeding up of distribution of ancestral lands to indigenous peoples, and the vigorous campaign on the use of generic drugs, among others.

Thirdly, as we celebrate, we enjoin our colleagues in civil society, and the broader public, especially the youth, for **greater vigilance**. The offensive of social justice and reform has just begun. We have to ensure that the billions of pesos collected by government will really be used rationally for its avowed purposes, that people really participate in Constitution-making, that peace in Mindanao is sustained, and that all these initiatives be pursued relentlessly. Other forces will continue to undermine the succeeding processes to favor their own vested interests. Let us close ranks and display our innate power as a people to finally consummate social justice and peace in the country.

We call on all groups and organizations nationwide, big and small, to spearhead your own brand of celebration and activism where you are. We, from the K12:30, will be sponsoring a series of activities to celebrate and forge greater unities in the coming days and months for social reform.

Join the victory celebration on Friday, 25 July. There is a Thanksgiving Mass at the EDSA shrine at 3pm, where key personalities will be prayed over; a march- rally to San Miguel Corporation building in Ortigas at 4:30 pm; and a free concert at the de la Salle Greenhills Cafeteria at 7pm, featuring the nation's top artists and bands.

It is always good to count our blessings. Mabuhay ang Sambayanang Pilipino!!!

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- **3:00 PM Thanksgiving Mass** *led by Bishop Socrates Villegas*
- **4:30 PM March-Rally** *to San Miguel Corporation Bldg. At Ortigas*
- **7:00 PM FREE Concert** at the de la Salle Greenhills Cafeteria featuring the nation's top artist and bands

3 Bilibid inmates caught with drugs, cash in surprise raid

By Alcuin Papa

THE SQUEEZE tactics of the National Bilibid Prisons officials have led to the discovery of illegal drugs from three convicts, two of them on death row.

Bureau of Corrections director Gen. Dionisio Santiago identified the three convicts as Peter Co, Willy Yang and Cheng She Wah.

A Malabon Trial Court meted the death sentence to Cheng in May 2002. Yang was arrested in October 2001 together with Panukulan, Quezon town Mayor Ronnie Mitra in a P1 billion drug bust after the police found the drugs inside one of the town's ambulances.

The surprise raid was conducted at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

Santiago said prison guards noticed Yang and Cheng acting suspiciously on the premises of Building 13 of the maximum security compound.

Since the two are death convicts, Santiago said they should have been restricted to Building 1.

When guards accosted the two, they found shabu and improvised drug paraphernalia in their possession.

Santiago then ordered an inspection of Building 13 during which prison guards found 30 grams of shabu inside the cell of Co, who is serving a life sentence for drug trafficking.

The three were then transferred to the disciplinary holding center of the compound.

"They might have been conducting a shabu session there," Santiago told the INQUIRER.

The former Armed Forces chief of staff, who earlier admitted that the drug trade was alive and kicking inside the prisons, also said checking the proliferation of drugs inside the prisons "would be a big challenge."

Santiago, who assumed the post only last month, has been implementing strict measures inside the prisons after he was given the green light by Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong to clean up the NBP.

"We are imposing restrictions on the inmates and it is up to them to behave or there will be more restrictive measures," Santiago warned. "We are also reviewing our policies to prevent drugs and other illegal items from entering our compound," he added.

Last February, drug paraphernalia, P170,000 in cash and illegal communications equipment were confiscated from Co and former Mayor Rey Yap of Sapang Dalaga, Misamis Occidental.

Meanwhile, an inmate of the Pasay City jail was arrested by two guards for dealing in drugs right inside the jail.

Pasay City warden Supt. Rosendo Dial said that he had received reports that inmate Armando Figueroa, 35, leader of the Sputnik Gang and "the mayor of all mayors" at the jail, was selling drugs to inmates so he ordered his men to investigate.

After two days of surveillance, SJO1 Ramon Carolino and SJO2 Renato Arecheta caught Figueroa in the act of peddling shabu inside Cell No. 4 at about 4:00 p.m. Wednesday.

Seized from Figueroa were 30 small plastic packs containing some three grams of shabu. Each packet is worth around P300.

Dial said Figueroa, who is detained for drug trafficking, smuggled in the drugs by hiding these in food brought in by visitors.

Mother, son shot and killed in QC

By Tina Santos

NINGAN Lumambas, 54, and her son Allan, 29, were killed on Wednesday night when an unidentified gunman opened fire at their house on Cadena de Amor Street, Barangay Central, Quezon City.

Police said the woman was shot twice in the head while her son was shot several times in the body.

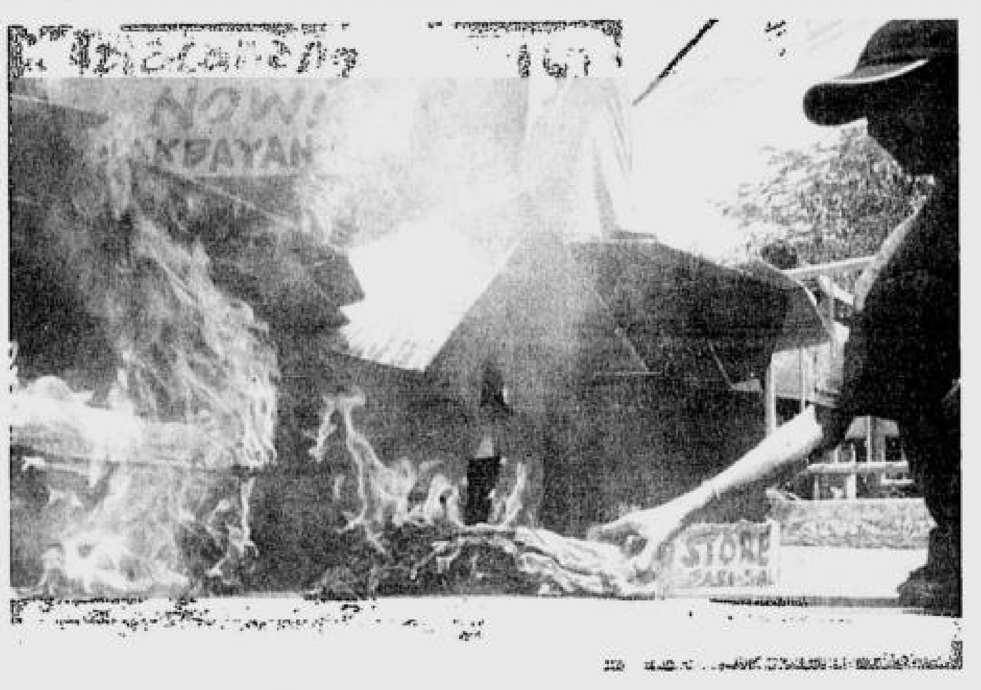
Witnesses told investigators that a man approached the victims' house, which has a convenience store out front, posed as a customer and, without a word, repeatedly shot the woman at around 6:45 p.m.

Bystanders immediately informed Lumambas' son of what had happened. Allan, who lived just a few blocks away on Azucena Street, immediately went to his mother's house. On the way, he encountered the gunman who also shot him several times, police said.

The suspect immediately fled on foot.

The police are suspecting that the killings are drug-related.

Neighbors of the victims claimed that Allan was arrested a few weeks back for drug pushing. Probers are now trying to find out why Allan's mother was also shot and killed by the lone assailant.



BURN DOWN THE HOUSE
A member of an urban poor group sets fire to a miniature shanty during a rally on Mendiola bridge to protest the Metro Manila Development Authority's decision to demolish the houses of squatters in various parts of Metro Manila. ERIK ARAZAS

Mendoza gives rank-and-file at LTO 2 weeks to shape up

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Leandro Mendoza yesterday told officials and employees of the Land Transportation Office that they have two weeks to shape up.

In a dialogue with LTO managers and employees, Mendoza said that he intends to do something about the complaints against the agency especially on the performance of the workers and the quality of service they provide.

Some of the complaints he cited were corruption in the agency and the "snail-like" performance of the workers.

Mendoza yesterday officially assumed LTO's top post. His predecessor, Roberto Lástimoso, on Wednesday began a month-long leave of absence.

Mendoza made it clear that his assignment to the LTO "is a temporary arrangement."

"I'm the chief, that's very clear, but only until Malacañang finds a permanent replacement for Lastimoso," he said. *Tina Santos*

Suspected drug lab turns up in Valenzuela

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

MEMBERS of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) yesterday searched a warehouse in Valenzuela City where they confiscated boxes of chemicals and equipment which they believe could be used to manufacture methampethamine hydrochloride or shabu.

However, PDEA and Philippine National Police officials refused to confirm if the chemicals and equipment were used in manufacturing shabu.

Searched at about 1 p.m. was the Conik Plastic warehouse in 51-B and 51-C Delfin St., Marulas, Valenzuela City owned by a certain Sally Yap (or Sally Chan).

A PNP chemist, who asked not to be named, told the INQUIRER that the seized chemicals could be used in manufacturing plastic wares. However, the chemist added that these could also be used in making illegal drugs.

The chemist said the warehouse apparently was not used in manufacturing plastic products.

An employee of the warehouse also told PDEA officials that they were not using the confiscated chemicals in producing plastic wares.

Yap also told officials that she did not know how the chemicals were being used, leaving PDEA and PNP inspectors speculating about the presence of the chemicals in the warehouse.

Ten boxes of bottled chemicals, some of which were unlabelled, were found inside a small padlocked room inside warehouse building 51-C.

Also found were two sacks of charcoal, which the chemist said could be used in absorbing the gases emitted by the chemicals.

The PDEA inspectors also confiscated two "improvised pressure cookers," which two inspectors said were similar to those found in previously raided shabu laboratories in Cavite, Parañaque and Las Piñas City.

But again, the officials said they could not confirm if the equipment were being used in manufacturing shabu.

After the search, members of the PNP Scene of the Crime Operations brought the confiscated chemicals and equipment to Camp Crame to test if the chemicals were indeed ingredients in manufacturing shabu.

METROBRIEFS

GSIS open to probe

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System is urging Congress to push through with its plan to investigate the reported problems of the pension fund. Since May this year, the GSIS has stopped processing loans and retirement claims to enable the institution to upgrade its computer system, reconcile manual and computer data, and update premium contributions file and posting of all loan repayments. Some view the stoppage of loans granting as a result of financial problems of the GSIS. But GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said that on the contrary, the System has continued to grow financially. Last year, Garcia said, audited financial statement show that the GSIS posted a net income of P32.2 billion and released P22.2 billion for policy and salary loans. In the first quarter of 2003, the System earned a gross income of P14.42 billion and posted a net income of P6.201 billion. Claims payment for the period amounted to P6.917 billion while salary loans amounted to P3.3 billion, Garcia said in a press statement.

Wasted heist

EVEN before their heels could cool off, three robbery suspects had already decided to have a good time in a videoke bar in Pasig City. But police tracked them down there after the taxi driver they allegedly held up earlier saw where they went and pointed them to the police. Arrested were Franklin Sadao, 23, Gener Obenque, 30, and Ford Antonio, 20. The three had earlier divested Jovito Tuplano, the taxi driver, of his earnings of P1,200, watch and the cab key. They then went straight to the videoke bar a few blocks away. *Luige del Puerto*

Willing to be probed

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said he is willing to undergo a Senate probe on payoffs he allegedly received from jueteng operators. He said he hopes the Senate inquiry would finally put the matter about his alleged P5 million-a-month payola to rest. "This is a budget issue that comes out everytime I'm out of the country," Wycoco told reporters yesterday. "It always comes out whenever I'm going after bank accounts of a friend." He did not say who he was referring to when he said "friend." *Leila Salaverria*

Religious cops

METRO Manila residents want their lawmen to be godly and spiritually oriented. This was the result of the recent Pulse Asia Survey commissioned by the National Capital Region Police Office to find out exactly how Metro Manilans feel about policemen. Based on the survey results, around 30 percent of the respondents said they want their cops to be godly, 19 percent trustworthy, 16 percent fast to respond to public call for help, 7 percent respectable/honorable, 6 percent humane and 6 percent respectful of the law. Among the undesirable traits enumerated by the respondents were corrupt (32 percent), involved in illegal activities (17 percent), abusive (16 percent), immoral (6 percent), vulgar or lacking in good manners (6 percent). *Tina Santos*

SWAT men gun down rampaging cook

By Leila Salaverria

A COOK who fatally shot a construction worker was killed in a shootout with members of the Western Police District yesterday.

Suspect Cris Rivera, initially identified as a cook, also wounded two members of the WPD's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team before he died in a hail of gunfire inside the Romeo Laurente Building on Quezon Boulevard at the back of the Far Eastern University in Quiapo, Manila.

According to investigators, Rivera had come from a drinking spree when he crossed paths with 33-year-old construction worker Alexander Rey. Rivera shot Rey with a .45 cal pistol at around 4 p.m., police said. Rey died while he was undergoing treatment at the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital.

After shooting Rey, Rivera ran to the Romeo Laurente Building where he holed up.

Witnesses then called up WPD officials, who quickly sent a SWAT team to the scene.

WPD district director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong and Police Community Precinct 4 station commander Supt. Manolo Martinez also went to the scene to negotiate with the suspect.

But the suspect, who was hiding in the building, opened fire on the responding officers.

Police said SWAT members PO2 Ranilo Flores was shot in the left thigh, while SPO1 Jose Dado was also hit in the gunfire.

Both were taken to the University of Santo Tomas Hospital for treatment.

Martinez said the police had no choice but to shoot back because Rivera kept on firing at the officers and thus posed a threat to their safety.

"We have two officers down," said Martinez. "We have no option but to retaliate."

Rivera was killed on the spot. His body was found inside the bathroom of room 4F.

Robbers take a fancy to city hall door

By Luige del Puerto

THE best way to break into an office is through the door. Better yet, why not take the whole door?

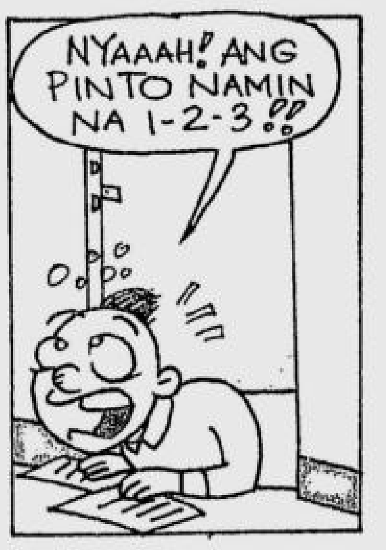
This was exactly what robbers did to the Business and License Division office of Mandaluyong City.

The office is located on the first floor of city hall.

PO1 Ruberto Balsamo said city hall employee Helen Cabalit discovered the theft shortly before 7 a.m., after noticing that the office no longer had a door.

Balsamo said the robbers targeted the drawer of cashier Violeta Pascua.

They took about P5,000, $130, and other foreign currencies amounting to P4,000.


NYAAAH! ANG PINTO NAMIN NA 1-2-3?!?

The cash represented the division's collection for the previous day.

The division head, Cathy Arce, said her section did not lose anything substantial.

"Just some personal money and items," Arce said.

Pedestrians nab 2 robbers in QC

PEDESTRIANS on Wednesday caught two robbers in Manila after the suspects held up yet another set of jeepney passengers.

Rogelio dela Cruz, 18, of Quiapo, Manila and and Roderick Linao, 31, of Sampaloc, allegedly held up jeepney passengers on Magallanes Street in Intramuros at around 11 a.m. Wednesday.

While the suspects were making their escape, a security guard of Rizal Park and several pedestrians have chased and cornered Dela Cruz and Linao, police said.

The pedestrians later turned the suspects over the police.

The suspects' two companions—a man and a woman—managed to escape, according to police.

Investigators said the suspects belonged to a group of robbers that often preyed on passengers of jeepneys plying Maria Orosa Street, Pedro Gil Street and Taft Avenue. *Leila Salaverria*

Jockey almost killed over horse droppings

EVEN horse manure can be fatal.

Stable boy Jose Dollesin stabbed and wounded jockey Loreto Salazar early yesterday morning when the latter chided the suspect to clean up the horse manure in the stable.

Dollesin, 53, a native of Tayabas Quezon and a stay-in helper of Narciso Morales Stable at the PRC Compound in Barangay Carmona, Makati City, has been arrested, police said.

According to SPO1 Lewelie Cristobal, Dollesin brought Salazar's racehorse out of its stable at about 6 a.m. when the victim saw manure on the horse's neck.

Salazar, 53, of Riverside, Makati, then slapped the suspect and reprimanded him for not cleaning the horse properly, police said.

Upset, the suspect got a fan knife and stabbed the victim several times, police said. *Margaux Ortiz*

Panapio; 74

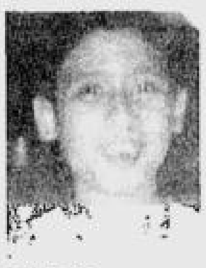
JOAQUIN G. Panapio Sr. of Mabini, Batangas, died last Sunday. He was 74.

Panapio was the former president of Asaphil Umpires Assn. and umpire consultant of Little League Philippines.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Mabini. Interment will be on Saturday, July 26, 2003.

Please help us find them

Turco



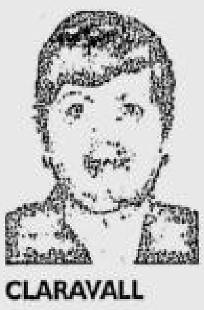
TURCO

AHMAD Anthony Turco, 11, left home on July 10 at about 5:30 a.m. to attend classes at the P. Gomez Elementary School near Central Market, Mayhaligue, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Turco has not come home since then.

Turco, of 1612 Malabon Street, Sta. Cruz, was last seen wearing school uniform and rubber shoes, and toting a school bag with rollers attached.

To anyone has seen the boy, please get in touch with his stepfather, Wenceslao Conde, at tel. no. 711-3739.

Claravall



CLARAVALL

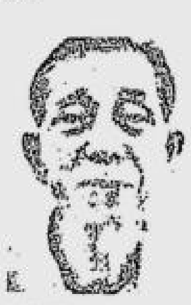
Last June 14, Edwina "Winnie" Romero Claravall, 57, left her house on Sta. Catalina Street, Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City at around 11:30 p.m. and was never seen again.

Claravall is described to be about 5-foot-5, weighing 165 lbs. She was last seen wearing a purple dress with a floral organza top.

Claravall is not capable of making decisions for herself.

Anyone who has information regarding Claravall's whereabouts may contact her children, Sandy or Joseph, at 631-9159 and 631-9161.

Rufo



RUFO

Arturo A. Rufo, or Mang Arthur, 71, was last seen on July 20 at around 6 p.m. on Casanova Drive, Barangay Culiat, Tandang Sora, Quezon City. Rufo stands about 5-foot-6 and weighs 120 lbs. He was wearing a blue-and-white striped shirt with collar, black pants and brown shoes. He was also seen carrying a green bag. Please relay any information on Mang Arthur to Rosario Rufo at (0918) 696-6712, 454-4569; and Rochelle Rufo at (0917) 833-7496.

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

SUERTRES (In exact order) 2 2 3
SUPERLOTTO 6/49 1 6 13 17 32 47
SIX DIGIT 7 1 6 5 0 1

MORE work still has to be done to rid Metro streets of smoke-belching vehicles.
PDI FILE PHOTO

We'll have less of this...

If you believe the DENR report on clean air

By Volt Contreras and Nelson Flores

THE DRIVE against air-polluting vehicles in Metro Manila still has a long way to go, but according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources there is already reason to celebrate.

The DENR yesterday reported that more motorists were found to have complied with the emission standards of the 1998 Clean Air Act (CAA) this year than last year.

While only 10 percent of vehicles "passed" emission tests conducted in 2002, the DENR said there's already a 36-percent passing rate so far this year.

Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun based this report on the data submitted by the Metro Manila Development Authority, Land Transportation Office, and ABS-CBN's Bantay Kalikasan

This compliance rate is expected to improve further especially among diesel-fuel vehicles as oil companies prepare to reduce by 75 percent the sulfur content of their diesel products as required by the CAA, Gozun added.

The sulfur reduction will start this November, two months earlier than the timetable set by the law, she noted.

This developed as Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. urged all local government units nationwide to pass ordinances that would compliment the Clean Air Act.

Lina made the appeal after the Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR sought the DILG's assistance in monitoring the LGUs' performance in implementing the provisions of the anti-pollution law.

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BF CRIES FOUL

'I was stabbed in the back'

By Margaux Ortiz

"THEY have passed judgment so they can go home now."

This was the reaction yesterday of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando to the expression of concern by members of an international fact-finding team that looked into demolitions in the metropolis.

FERNANDO

Fernando said that during his meeting with Birte Scholz and Dan Nicholson on Tuesday, the two agreed that they would let the MMDA explain their side regarding the demolitions.

That was why, the MMDA chair said, he was surprised that a day after their meeting, reports that the MMDA had violated human rights came out.

Scholz and Nicholson are members of the fact-finding team from the Centre on Housing and Evictions, a Geneva-based human rights nongovernmental organization.

"I accommodated them when I should have refused," Fernando said. "How could they pre-judge us when we do not even have cases in our own courts?"

Fernando said the team did not give them any chance to explain their side and instead based their opinions on some pictures taken of the demolitions.

The MMDA chair added that he had told Scholz and Nicholson to be cautious in what they say about him because he has already signified his intention to run for vice president.

"Now I'm bracing myself for the repercussions of the negative things they said," Fernando lamented.

Nicholson had said that the demolitions appear to have taken place without adequate notice and consultation with affected communities.

Driving through Manila streets? Better read this

By Tarra Quismundo

IF YOU drive through Manila's streets often, then you may have to get used to the new traffic routes.

A traffic re-routing scheme has been implemented in the city to give way to the beautification and pedestrianization projects on Rizal Avenue and the Muelle del Rio linear park.

Public and private vehicles from Quiapo bound for the port area will now have to take Quezon Bridge to Taft Avenue, right to P. Burgos Avenue, and then right to A. Bonifacio Drive.

Another route is to take the road behind the Post Office Building from the Quezon Bridge, left after the Muelle del Rio linear park, right to Jones Bridge, left to Dasmariñas street, left to Juan Luna Street, left to San Gabriel street to Plaza Cervantes, right to Jones Bridge, and then left to Magallanes Drive.

For those coming from Blumentritt, the reroute would take you to Rizal Avenue, right to Doroteo Jose Street, left to Tomas Mapua Street, left to Ongpin Street through Plaza Sta. Cruz, left to McArthur Bridge, right to Taft Avenue, right to P. Burgos Avenue, and then right to A. Bonifacio Avenue going to the port area.

Vehicles going north from McArthur Bridge would turn right at Carlos Palanca Street, left to Estero Cegado, right to Ronquillo Street, left to Evangelista Street, left to Recto Avenue, right to Oroquieta Street and straight to Blumentritt.

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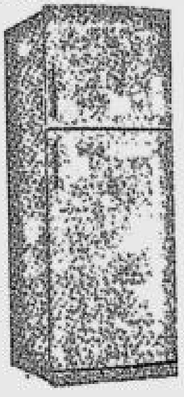

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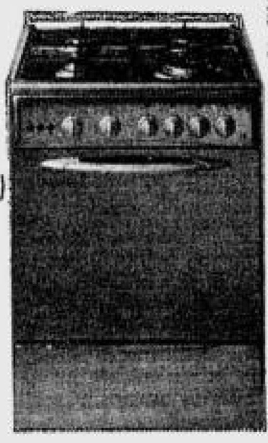

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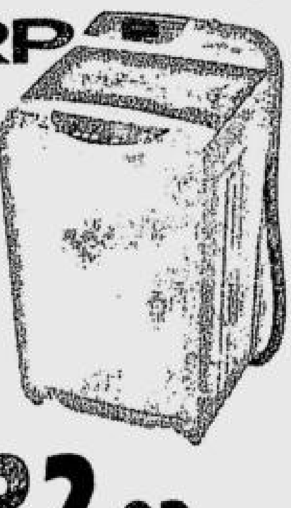

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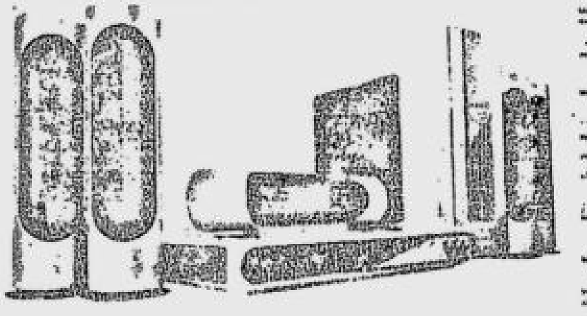

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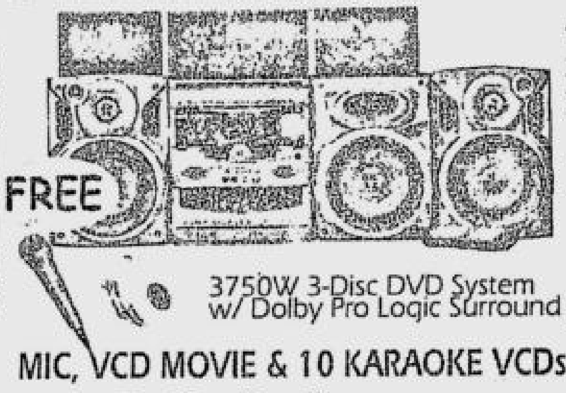

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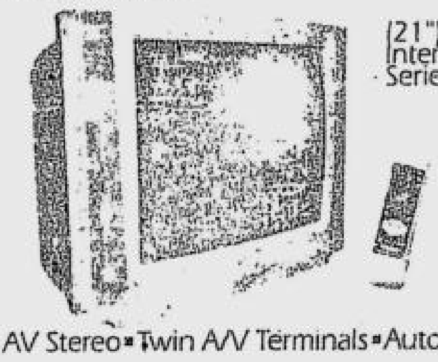

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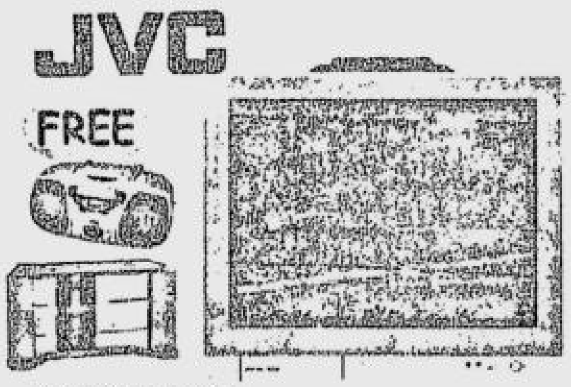

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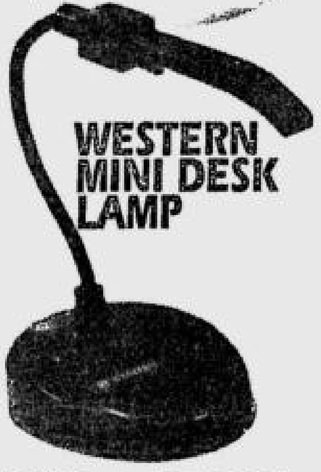

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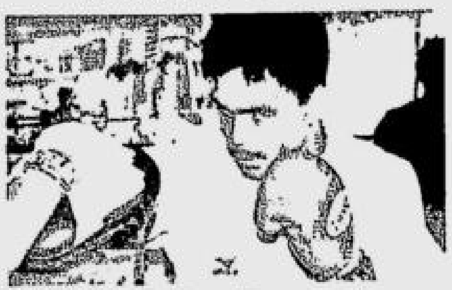

- **It's go for Pacquiao title defense** /A26

- **Archers rout Warriors** /A26
- **Thorpe, Phelps in titanic showdown** /A28

Triple victory treat from RP jungolfers in Palm Springs

MIGUEL Tabuena made it in wire-to-wire fashion, Terence Macatangay needed three extra holes to pull it off and Wolen Juan Superal came from behind in giving Team Philippines an unprecedented triple victory treat Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) in the Desert Junior Classic in Palm Springs, California.

Tabuena set the tone for the best performance ever by a Philippine delegation abroad when he overpowered Thai rival Meechi Padungsiriseth in the boys' 8-9 years division, scoring a 9-hole round of 37 to win by six strokes with a 110 aggregate at the Landmark Golf Club course.

Macatangay, 15, and Superal, 10, did it the hard way to complete the victory romp. It was the first time that a national jungolf contingent won more than two titles in an international competition.

Macatangay, blowing a sure win with a wet double-bogey on the last hole of regulation play, saved par on the third extra hole to turn back Alex Grieb of

TRIPLE/ A29

Globe Scores High In the UAAP Season 66

It's all set -- another exciting chapter in the colorful history of the UAAP has begun. Count on Globe to let you experience the dazzling display of hardcourt wizardry from a new crop of emerging talents and seasoned ballers, eager and hungry to bring home the coveted title for the honor and glory of their respective schools. Eight teams with one goal in mind: one cup to rule them all. Who will come out as champions? Welcome to the 66th UAAP Season!

Globe drums up the thrills of the 66th UAAP Season with a barrage of activities planned to make your gaming experience as memorable and exhilarating as the ensuing courtside drama.

For weekend games at Araneta Coliseum, visit the Gentxt booth where hoop-lovin' Gentxters from the different competing schools can have their faces painted with their respective school colors absolutely FREE. And if that's not enough, you can get a FREE bandanna to match the color of the various participating UAAP schools just by raking up a minimum number of points at the electronic basketball machine exclusive at the Gentxt booth.

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The Araneta gates are abuzz with all Globe-related activities. You can surrender your non-Globe pre-paid SIM, and finally get Globe-connected via the Hi-Memory SIM Swap for a mere P100! The Globe booth is also the place to go if you want to reload with the newest P100 Globe Prepaid Call & Text Card.

Globe subscribers and Gentxters who want to get in touch with fellow UAAP fanatics online may join the UAAP forum provided by Pinoy Exchange, arguably the best cyber community for UAAP and NCAA discussions. Just log on to www.pinoyexchange.com.

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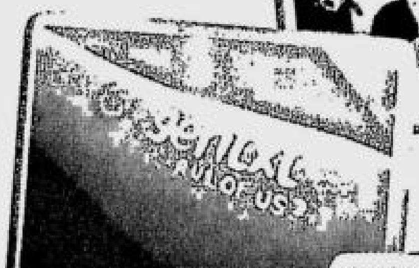

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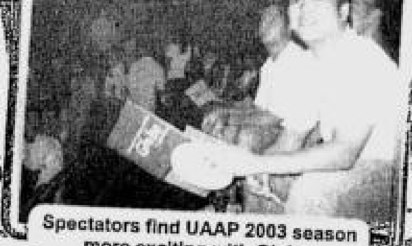

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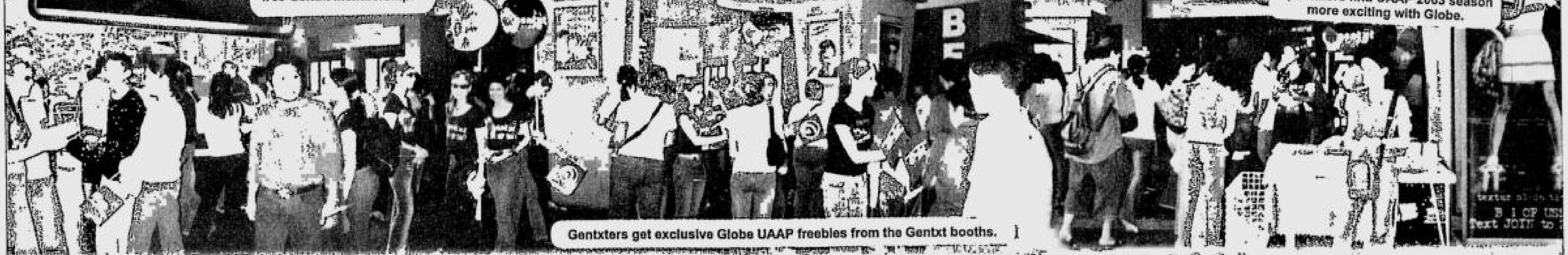

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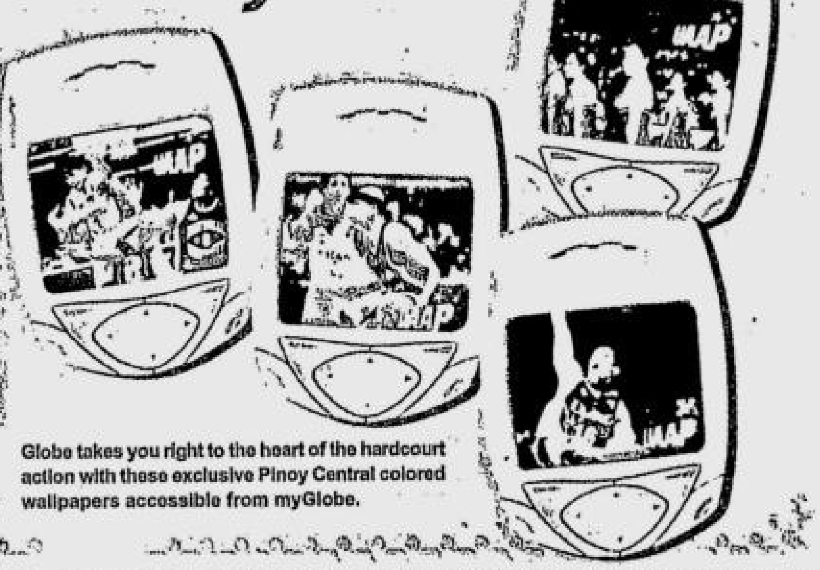

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Korean, Yugoslav cagers due today for Invitational

EVERYTHING is set for the Samsung PBA Invitational Cup, which opens Sunday at the Astrodome, with the three foreign guest teams from Yugoslavia, China and South Korea arriving today and tomorrow.

The Yonsei University squad from South Korea arrives at 11:50 a.m. today from Seoul via Asiana Airlines flight no. 371 followed by the Novi Sad of Yugoslavia at 5:40 p.m. via Lufthansa flight no. 540.

The Jilin Yi Qi Tigers of China will be the last to arrive, coming in tomorrow at 8:50 p.m. via Philippine Airlines flight no. 337.

Legendary Korean player Shin Dong Pa, who will be guest of honor during the opening ceremonies, is already in town.

The foreign delegations will be billeted at the Traders Royal Hotel along Roxas Boulevard.

The tournament, the first of its kind in the PBA since 1982, fires off Sunday with Red Bull Barako tackling Yonsei University in the main game at 6:30 p.m. San Miguel Beer and the RP national team square off in the 4 o' clock curtain-raiser.

Yonsei University and Red Bull Barako are bracketed with the Lamoiyan-sponsored Yugoslavian junior team, newly crowned All Filipino champion Talk 'N Text and FedEx while San Miguel and the RP squad are in the other group with Coca-Cola, Alaska Milk and the Jilin Yi Qi Tigers.

Each group plays a single round robin in the eliminations with the top two teams advancing to the crossover knockout semifinals. Winners clash in a best-of-three showdown for the crown.

Yonsei University, Jilin Yi Qi and Novi Sad seek to become the second foreign team to win a title in the local pro league. Nicholas Stoodley/USA won the 1980 Invitational championship over Toyota.

The PBA is staking a cash prize of $20,000 for the foreign guest team that will win the championship.

Meanwhile tickets for the tournament are now on sale at all SM department stores and at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Archers boost stock by routing Warriors

LA SALLE's Marc Cardona (right) scramble for possession with UE's Jay Arr Estrada.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Dennis U. Eroa

NOW, it's confirmed. Despite a young and untested lineup, La Salle remains a legitimate title contender in the ongoing UAAP men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

Yesterday, La Salle turned an expected thriller into a boring one-sided game as it stunned University of the East, 84-65, and gained a share of the lead with Far Eastern with its third straight win.

"We played good, they played bad," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren. "This was like passing our prelims."

The Archers looked every inch like title prospects against the Warriors, who played without their usual spunk.

Marc Cardona stood at the helm of La Salle's devastating show. The six-foot Cardona scattered 21 points in an explosive first half which saw the Archers finish on top by 14, 46-32.

While Cardona was busy piling up points, UE's Paul Artadi, James Yap and Ollan Omiping bled for their baskets, no thanks to La Salle's merciless press.

No amount of prodding from coach Boyzie Zamar could wake the Warriors from their slumber as La Salle even padded the lead to 27 points on Mark Benitez's undergoal stab, 79-52.

Yap, shadowed all throughout by the smaller but quicker Casio, finished with 16 points, most of which came when the Archers were assured of victory, 81-61, 2:28 left.

UE's setback was a big disappointment for legendary mentor Virgilio 'Baby' Dalupan, who made a rare appearance to watch the Warriors. Dalupan authored UE's basketball dynasty in the UAAP during the '60s. UE owns 18 titles, an honor it shares with Santo Tomas.

Earlier, Adamson leaned on Ramil Tagupa's heroics in the dying seconds to beat University of the Philippines, 83-80, for its first win in three games.

Scores:

First Game

ADAMSON 83—Abadia 17, Bono 11, Tiongco 9, Tagupa 9, Kong 8, Alonzo 8, Catabay 8, Cabahug 6, Poloyapoy 3, Hugnatan 2, Hate 2, Tajonera 0.

UP 80—Robin 14, Cruz 13, Almeda 13, David 9, Bornancin 9, Cervantes 7, Reyes 6, Epres 5, Buyco 2, Ibanes 2, Penson 0.

Quarters: 21-27, 43-44, 59-63, 83-80

Second Game

LA SALLE 84—Cardona 29, Yeo 14, Gaco 11, Casio 7, Arana 6, Benitez 6, Tang 5, Ramos 3, Sharma 2, Cua 1, Cabatu 0.

UE 65 —Yap 16, Estrada 11, Canaleta 11, Booker 9, Butel 5, Artadi 4, Omiping 4, Alminario 2, Labagala 2, Masbang 1, Tan 0.

Quarters: 27-20, 46-32, 65-46, 84-65

GAMES TOMORROW (Blue Eagle Gym)
11 a.m.—NU vs Ateneo (Jrs)
2 p.m.—NU vs Ateneo (srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs FEU (srs)

Cardinals, Lions dispute top spot

Seniors

STANDINGS	W	L
JRU	4	2
Mapua	4	2
San Beda	4	2
Letran	4	2
SSC-R	3	3
PCU	3	3
Perpetual	2	4
St. Benilde	0	6

Juniors

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	6	0
Mapua	4	2
LSGH	4	2
SSC-R	4	2
Letran	4	2
PCU	2	4
UPHR	0	6
JRU	0	6

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—SBC vs Mapua (Jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—CSB vs SSC-R (srs/jrs)

By June Navarro

MAPUA and San Beda dispute the solo lead even as defending champion San Sebastian tries to recover lost ground in the NCAA basketball tournament today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Cardinals and Lions collide at 2 p.m. with the winner breaking out of a four-way tie to grab top spot with a 5-2 win-loss record.

The logjam at 4-2 that include Letran and Jose Rizal occurred Wednesday as the Knights blasted the Perpetual Help-Rizal Altas and the Philippine Christian Dolphins shot down the Bombers.

The Stags, tied with the Dolphins at 3-3, go up against the winless St. Benilde Blazers in the other senior game at 4 p.m.

The SBC Cubs shoot for their seventh straight win when they face the Mapua Robins in the 11:30 a.m. curtain-raiser.

The SSC Staglets and the La Salle Greenies meet at 6 p.m.

Jerome Paterno, who has led the Lions in scoring and rebounds the last three games, will be the chief concern of the Cardinals along with his reliable backups Arjun Cordero, Ronnie Bughao, Michael Casino, James Hudencial, Tim Ong and Jeff Bombeo.

Mapua coach Horacio Lim will lean on Christian Guevarra, Raymond Dula, Jeff Gonzales, Nat Cruz and Jeff Martin.

"Man for man, I think we can match up with the Lions. The outcome will depend on how we can stop them from scoring inside," said Lim.

Rookies Martin Antonio and Casino, who are also both 6-foot-5s, are expected to be assigned on Paterno.

It's go for Pacquiao title defense; 'hepa' rumor a hoax

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES, California—The California State Athletic Commission yesterday gave Manny Pacquiao the go-signal to fight and his renowned American trainer, Freddie Roach, promised a great stand by the only reigning Filipino world boxing title-holder.

Pacquiao was not made aware of it, but his handlers, headed here by business manager Rod Nazario, had been intrigued and puzzled by reports that Pacquiao's defense of his International Boxing Federation super-bantamweight crown this Saturday (Sunday in Manila) would not push through after he allegedly tested positive for hepatitis B.

Carl Moretti, matchmaker for the promotional outfit Main Event, said it's a go for Pacquiao's defense against the unbeaten Emmanuel Lucero, thus dispelling rumors the championship had been shelved.

An Internet source also said Dean Lohius, chief athletic inspector for the ruling California boxing body, has cleared Pacquiao for the fourth defense of his world crown.

The information, awaited by Pacquiao's handlers for nearly the whole day, brought gladness to the Filipino camp whose members swear that Pacquiao is enjoying one of his finest forms here.

Nazario, besieged by calls from Manila media after rumors of the postponement spread back home, said he suspected the rumor was meant to sabotage, disturb and put Pacquiao off-balance.

"If Manny had been told of this mess, it would have wrecked his composure," Nazario explained. "*Magugulo ang isip niya, masisira ang kundisyon* (He'll keep thinking about it, he'll lose his poise," he added.

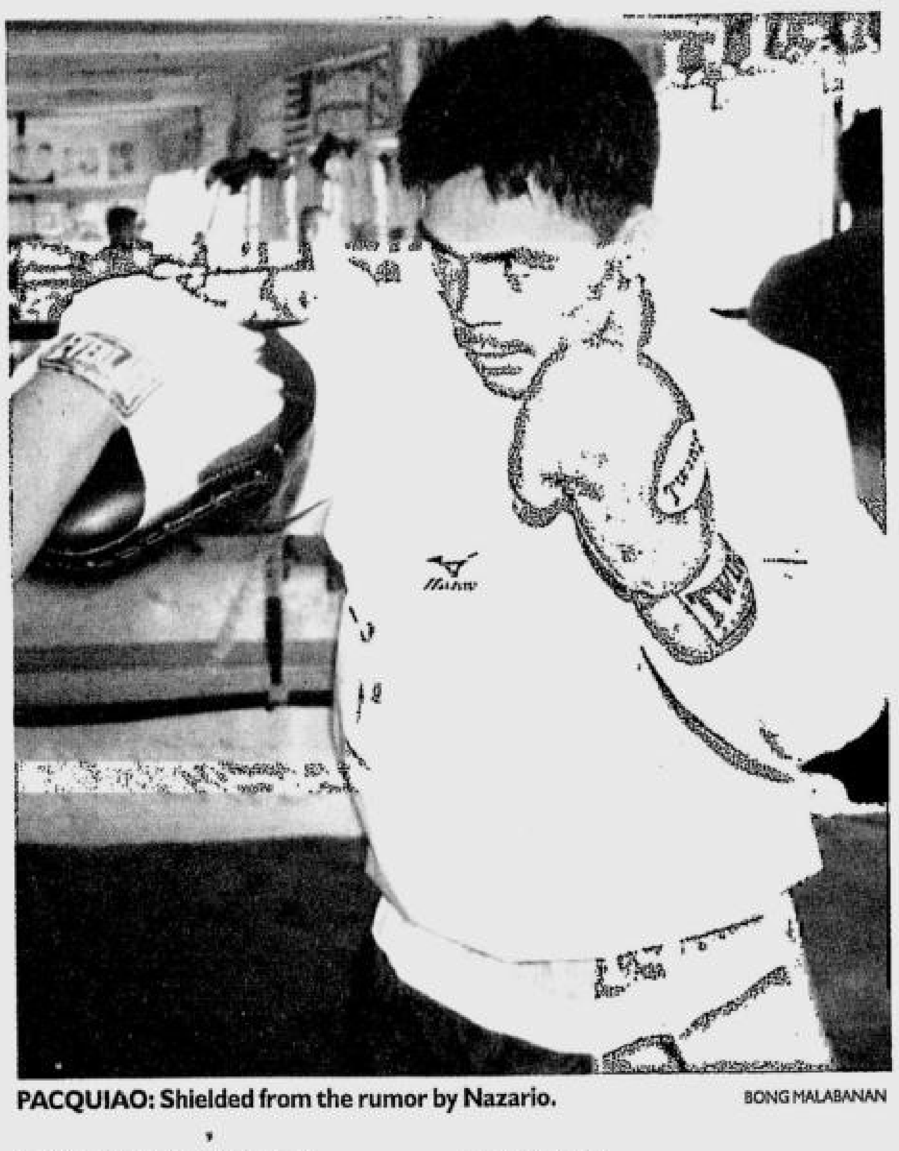
This was the reason Nazario took extreme care to prevent the rumor, said to have emanated from a female tabloid boxing writer in Manila, from reaching Pacquiao.

As things stand, Pacquiao may not be made aware of the apprehension caused by the burdensome news that he would be replaced by another boxer for Saturday's main undercard to the Fernando Vargas-Fritz Vanderpool rumble at the sold-out Los Angeles Olympic Auditorium long after he's done with his crown defense.

Roach, refusing to even give half an ear to the rumor, told the INQUIRER he has not seen anybody work as hard as Pacquiao at the Wild Card Gym, located right beside the hotel where the champ stays.

"OK, Lucero is tough, no doubt about that," Roach said. "But he would need more than just toughness to beat Pacquiao."

Pacquiao was scheduled for a final workout Thursday before he reports for the weigh-in set at the Grand Olympic parking lot Friday afternoon.



PACQUIAO: Shielded from the rumor by Nazario.

BONG MALABANAN

He tipped the scales at 124 pounds, two over the limit, after yesterday's workout and Roach assured that Pacquiao should make it in a breeze.

"Lucero slams his punches from outside, and I'm sure Manny would get him either with a straight or an inside punch," Roach said.

Pacquiao himself has been miserly with words and instead repairs to his room the whole day, going out only to jog and train.

He indeed reported for an unscheduled blood test on the instance of a former cut man, a Mexican who now works with the rivals of Murad Muhammad, who promotes Pacquiao here.

Initial findings bared Pacquiao had some anti-bodies in his system.

But Pacquiao handlers later said these were all insignificant as these traces are normally found in people from the tropics.

Montecillo rules 14K Invt'l race

CEBU CITY—Bowen Montecillo led a 1-2-3 finish by Cebuano runners in the Smart First Sandugo 14-km Invitational Marathon on Sunday in Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

Montecillo breasted the tape in 50 minutes and 9.96 seconds to pocket the top purse of P4,000.

Montecillo said he was not physically conditioned for the race because he has been undergoing weight training for the past weeks in preparation for the Milo Central Visayas 20-K Regional elimination next month.

"I thought I couldn't get the crown," Montecillo said. "I was already gasping for breath after the first few kilometers of the race and my legs felt heavy. Good thing, I was able to pull through."

The Sandugo race is Montecillo's first victory after the May 1 national open track and field in Manila. He decided to forego his title defense in the DYAB "Takbo sa Kalikasan" 10K marathon last June.

Demetriou Rosales and Terso Pamaybay, both from Southwestern University, placed second and third, respectively. Rosales, a qualifier in the Milo 42K Marathon from Eastern Visayas, clocked 53:20.56 to win P3,000 while Pamaybay, the 2003 DYAB champion, timed 54:12.90. Completing the top 10 were Raul Sabijon, Albe Cadorna, Riez Enriquez of University of San Jose-Recoletos, Ebrane Kabigue, Juarlou Vertudazo, Philip Maloloy-on and Allan Rapayla. In Category B for runners 40 years and above, the top five finishers were Donato Sabino, Marcelo Cahatian, Quiroben Abella, Yulando Antopina and Ireneo Ylaya.

Rafael S. Alas III

No GAB license yet for Torion

By June Navarro

JIMWELL Torion is raring to go but he does not have the license to play.

Although reinstated by the Philippine Basketball Association and given permission to rejoin Red Bull in the Samsung-PBA Invitational championship starting this Sunday, Torion still needs clearance from the Games and Amusements Board.

GAB chairperson Eduardo Villanueva said he was informed of the PBA's decision to reinstate Torion only this week and, under GAB rules, a decision to restore Torion's license must first be approved by a three-man board.

"As of now, Torion is on a floating status. But as soon as the GAB board clears him, Torion can immediately return to action in the PBA," said Villanueva.

He said GAB's approval of Torion's return seems likely since the Red Bull skipper, who was suspended for failing a random drug test three months ago, has already complied with the requirements for reinstatement and that the PBA has formally notified the GAB about it.

"But first we have to discuss Torion's case in the board. If the board gives its nod, then we will immediately issue a resolution restoring the GAB license of Torion," said Villanueva.

Renamed Red Bull Barako, the team hopes to field Torion in its opening game against Yonsei University team in the Invitationals on Sunday.

Aside from the GAB chairperson, commissioners Angel Bautista and Emmanuel Palabrica comprise the three-man board. Bautista handles the activities and operations of the GAB while Palabrica is the point man on administrative functions and finance.

The 5-foot-9 Torion underwent a month-long drug counseling in a Makati City rehabilitation center before Eala evaluated his status and lifted his indefinite suspension.

Among the nine players who tested positive for prohibited drugs during the random and mandatory tests, only Torion readily admitted his guilt.

Other players who flunked the tests but maintained their innocence were Jun Limpot and Alex Crisano of Barangay Ginebra, Talk 'N Text's Norman Gonzales, Noli Locsin and Long David, Red Bull's Davonn Harp, Ryan Bernardo of FedEx and San Miguel Beer's Dorian Peña.

TORION: Expected to be fielded in Red Bull Barako's opening game.

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Laurente OPBF defense reset

By Rey Danseco

DENNIS Laurente's second defense of his Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) lightweight title against RP lightweight champion Fernando Montilla has been moved four days to Aug. 20 at the Elorde Sports Center in Parañaque City.

Promoter Johnny Elorde announced yesterday that the 3,000-seat cockpit arena of the family-owned ESC in Sucat road will be the new venue after efforts to hold the fight in two other previous sites failed.

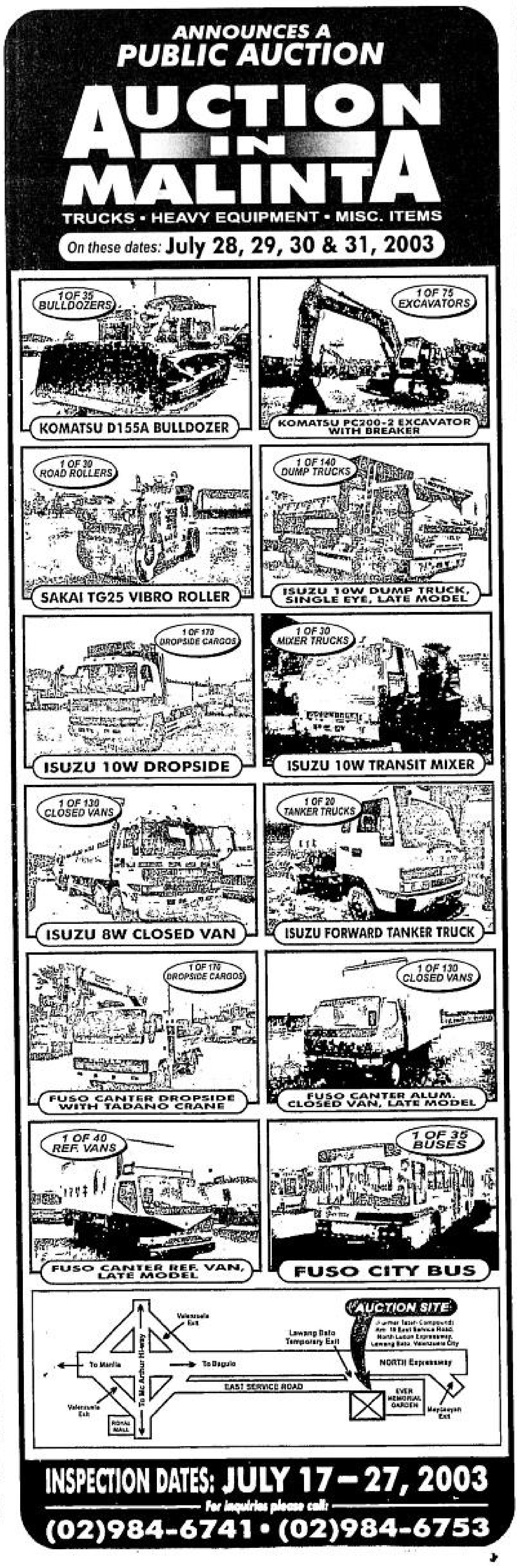
The boxing promotion, Elorde's biggest after 13 months, was originally set on Aug. 16 at the Casino Filipino amphitheater in Parañaque, but the site was unavailable. Pagcor officials said the Casino Filipino is scheduled for renovation starting on Aug. 6.

Elorde tried to tap the Rizal Memorial Coliseum but backed out due to the stiff P80,000 rental.

Laurente, beaten only once in 22 fights with 11 knockouts, is the country's best world title hope in the 135-lb division. He is No. 12 in the latest World Boxing Council (WBC) rankings.

The young champion hopes to use his fight against Montilla, who is a serious threat and capable of scoring an upset win, as springboard to regaining his old status as WBC No. 8.

While he knows it would take time for Laurente to secure a title shot against WBC lightweight king Floyd Mayweather of the US, Elorde said Laurente's victory would move him closer to a crack at the world championship.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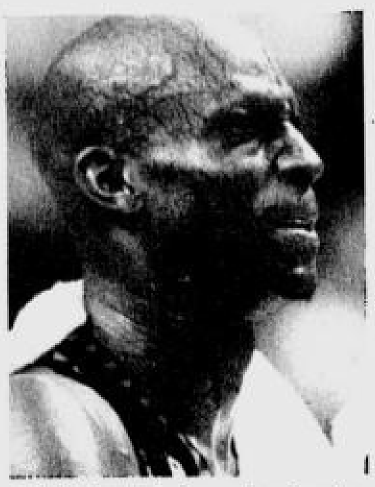
Knicks trade Sprewell to T’wolves;

SPREWELL has had problems with punctuality. REUTERS



GARNETT: Timberwolves’ main man. AFP

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania— Swingman Latrell Sprewell was traded to the Minnesota Timberwolves and forwards Keith Van Horn and Glenn Robinson joined their third team in as many seasons in a blockbuster four-team National Basketball Association deal Wednesday night.

The New York Knicks traded Sprewell to the Timberwolves, who traded injured guard Terrell Brandon to the Hawks, who traded Robinson to the Philadelphia 76ers, who traded Van Horn to the Knicks.

The deal works under salary cap guidelines because all four players make in the range of 12 million dollars.

Philadelphia, which acquired center-forward Marc Jackson from Minnesota in the deal, sent the rights to forward Randy Holcomb, a first-round draft pick and cash to Atlanta. The Hawks sent Philadelphia back the 76ers’ second-round pick in 2006.

Sprewell, 32, has been prominently mentioned in trade rumors since last summer, when he broke his hand in a boating accident and did not tell the Knicks about it until he arrived at training camp.

Known for choking coach P.J. Carlesimo during his days in Golden State, Sprewell also has had problems with punctuality in his five seasons with the Knicks, who have been looking to add size to their roster.

Playing mostly at small forward, Sprewell averaged 16.4 points last season, his 11th in the NBA. He shot a career-low 40.3 percent from the field as he matched his lowest scoring average since his rookie season.

The Timberwolves, who never have won a playoff series in seven tries, are assembling quite a te
star forward Kevin
quired point guard
trade with Milwauk
agent center Michael
have added Sprewell
so includes Wally Szcz

A four-time All-Star,
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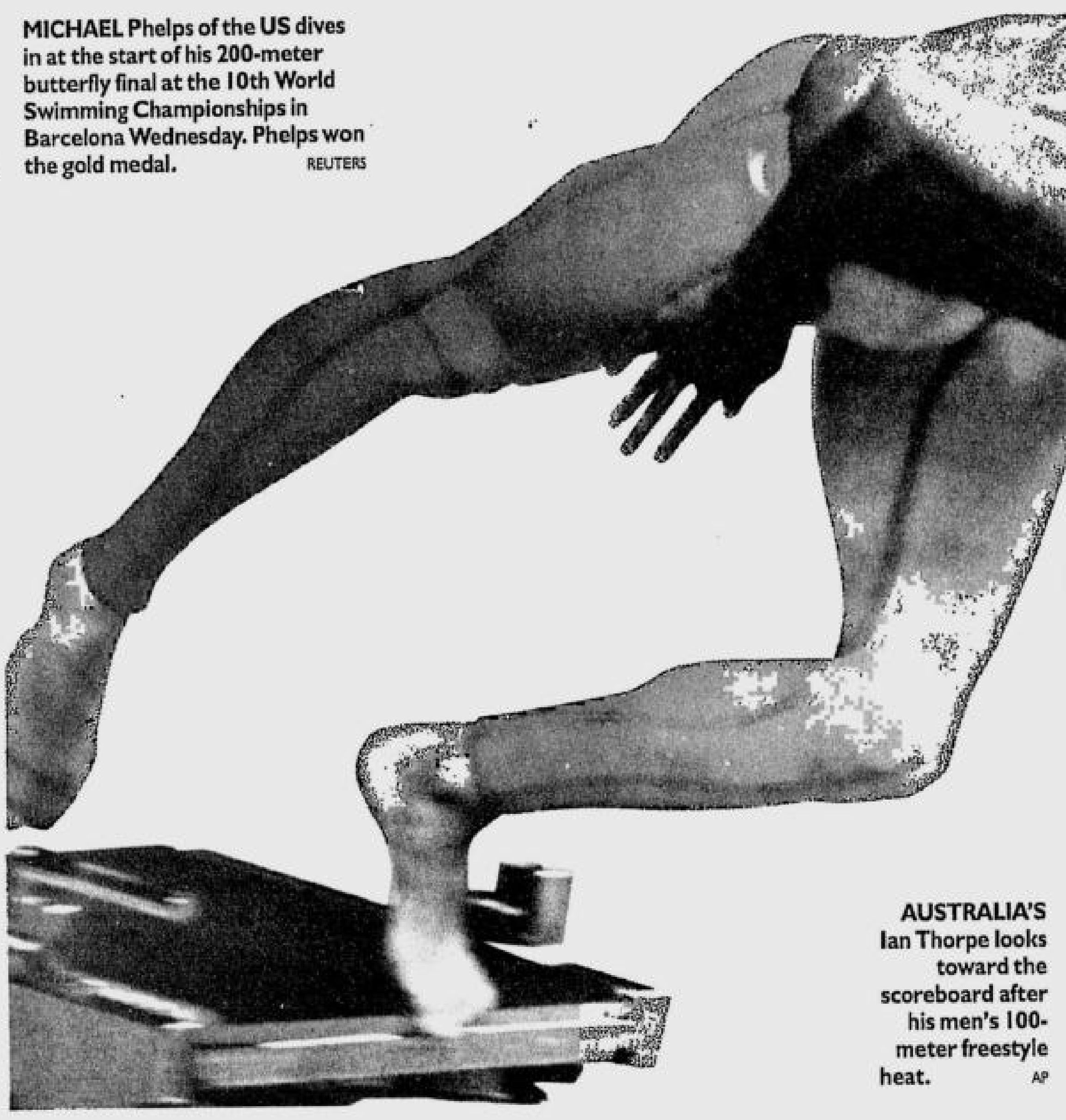

MICHAEL Phelps of the US dives in at the start of his 200-meter butterfly final at the 10th World Swimming Championships in Barcelona Wednesday. Phelps won the gold medal. REUTERS

AUSTRALIA’S Ian Thorpe looks toward the scoreboard after his men’s 100-meter freestyle heat. AP

PHELPS VS. T

Titani

BARCELONA, Spain—Michael
gold medal of the World S
onships, but he’s still got som
against Ian Thorpe.

The world’s two top-rated swimmers go head-to-head Thursday in the 200-meter individual medley heats.

After Wednesday’s performances—where Phelps won the 200 butterfly and Thorpe anchored Australia to victory ahead of Phelps’ American team in the 800 freestyle relay—the talk around the Palau St. Jordi pool was that Thorpe is still No. 1.

“He knows he can only bring out the best in himself when he’s with the best and that’s the attraction of Ian,” Phelps’ coach Bob Bowman said. “Ian is the best. There’s no doubt about it.”

Thorpe has three golds to Phelps’ one so far.

In the 200 butterfly, Phelps clocked 1 minute, 54.35 seconds, just slightly off his world record-time of 1:53.93 set a day earlier in the semifinals. The two times are the fastest in history.

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Pettitte ties career high as Yankees stop Orioles

NEW YORK—Andy Pettitte equaled a career high by winning his seventh straight decision as the New York Yankees beat Baltimore 4-2 Wednesday to stop the Orioles’ six-game winning streak.

Pettitte (12-6) improved to 16-4 against the Orioles and handed them their first loss since the All-Star break, allowing one run and four hits in seven innings.

Japanese slugger Hideki Matsui hit a go-ahead single in a three-run sixth off Rick Helling (6-7), and Raul Mondesi homered to lead off the seventh.

In Boston, Trot Nixon homered twice, including a grand slam in a seven-run seventh to lead Boston over Tampa Bay.

Nixon went 3-for-4 and tied his career high with five RBIs.

Tim Wakefield (7-5) allowed four runs and six hits in seven innings. He gave up solo homers to Travis Lee and Toby Hall in the seventh, falling behind 4-3 before Boston rallied for its fifth straight win overall and 15th in 17 games in Fenway Park.

Scott Sauerbeck, acquired from Pittsburgh on Tuesday, pitched a scoreless eighth in his Red Sox debut.

In Minneapolis, Aaron Guiel homered twice, and Carlos Beltran, Raul Ibanez and Angel Berroa also connected as Kansas City beat Minnesota, 8-3.

The American League Central-leading Royals improved to 8-3 against the Twins this year and dropped the defending division champions 6 1/2 games back. Minnesota is in third place, also trailing Chicago.

Guiel hit a pair of solo shots, the first multi-homer game of his major league career. He has eight homers this season, including six in July.

Jeremy Affeldt (6-5) allowed three hits in five scoreless innings, striking out five. Johan Santana (4-3) allowed five runs, five hits and three walks in 5 1-3 innings.

In Toronto, Magglio Ordonez hit a tying two-run double in the ninth inning and Toronto reliever Dan Reichert hit Paul Konerko with a pitch to score the go-ahead run.

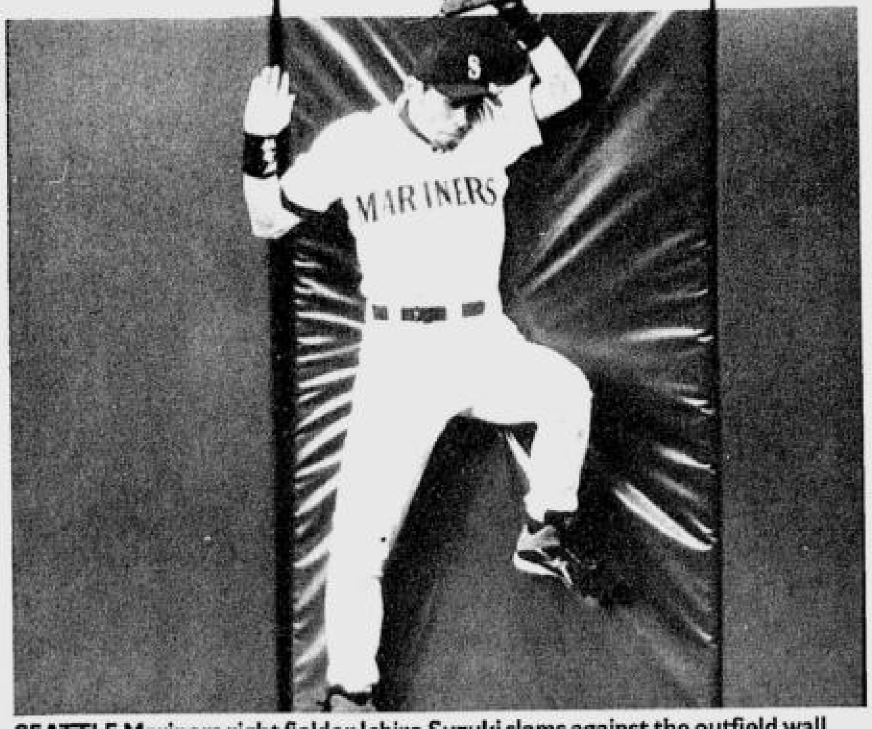
Rick White (1-1) got the last out of the eighth, and Damaso Marte got two outs for his seventh save. Juan Acevedo (1-4) was the loser.

In Cleveland, Brian Anderson (8-7) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings, improving to 4-0 as Cleveland beat Detroit to stop a seven-game losing streak.

David Riske and Danys Baez each pitched an inning of hitless relief, with Baez getting his 22nd save. The 2-hour, 4-minute game was the fastest in the history of Jacobs Field, which opened in 1994.

Travis Hafner homered off Matt Roney (1-5). Cleveland won for the first time since the All-Star break and is 9-2 against the Tigers this season. Detroit has lost six in a row and is on pace to lose 119 games.

In Arlington, Texas, Shane Spencer, who had been 0-for-10 since Cleveland traded him last week, hit his first homer for Texas and drove in four runs as the Rangers rallied from a 4-0, first-inning deficit. *AP*



SEATTLE Mariners right fielder Ichiro Suzuki slams against the outfield wall after snagging a fly ball from Oakland Athletics’ Scott Hatteberg in the fourth inning Wednesday in Seattle. AP

Sampras pulls out of US Open; Agassi gets top ranking

NEW YORK—Defending US Open champion P
te Sampras officially withdrew from this year
tournament Wednesday. Andre Agassi, who h
beat in last year’s final, will be the top seed.

Sampras was automatically included on th
initial entry list last week based on his No. 2
ranking. He has not played a professional tou
nament since winning his fifth US Open, an
record 14th Grand Slam singles title, last year.

He is the first US Open men’s singles cham
pion not to defend his title since 1970 winne
Ken Rosewall. Sampras told NBC-TV la
weekend that “there’s a good chance” he wi
officially retire soon.

Agassi, a two-time US Open champion, is cu
rently the world’s top-ranked player. The 33-yea
old Agassi, this year’s Australian Open champio
is the oldest player to be ranked No. 1 by the ATP.

Agassi has won eight Grand Slam titles, tyin
him for sixth on the career list.

French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero
Spain was seeded second with Wimbledon cham
pion Roger Federer of Switzerland third. Carl
Moya of Spain, the 1998 French Open champio
is the No. 4 seed with Lleyton Hewitt, the 200
US Open champ, seeded fifth. A

Advice to Fr. Nebres

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

JOEL Banal is torn between two lovers. He is coach both of Talk ‘N Text and Ateneo.

He had just coached Talk ‘N Text to victory in the PBA All Filipino.

Before that, he made Ateneo UAAP champion last year.

Include his PBL crown and Banal, from all indications, has become the hottest coach in town.

And yet, one of life’s truisms has put his career in a microscope.

He became Talk ‘N Text coach by fate. He got the post last March when TNT’s American coach was fired.

“He was a mistake from the very start,” said a TNT official of the firing of John Woolpert.

Banal, a TNT assistant coach for years, was the logical choice.

In the first place, he was fresh from his victories as Ateneo coach in both the PBL and UAAP.

In the second place, Manny V. Pangilinan, the TNT owner, is also part of the powerful committee tasked to select Ateneo coaches.

Banal’s appointment as TNT coach was, if we use Banal’s words again, “the hand of God at work.”

He was named interim TNT coach, yes, so as not to jeopardize his position as Ateneo coach. He won for TNT the All Filipino crown on the day Ateneo lost its first game in the UAAP. He couldn’t be in both games so he picked TNT because the team had an appointment with destiny that day.

With the job at TNT nicely done, Banal resumed his coaching chores at Ateneo in no time. Even as he lost his first game as he groped for form (not easy to switch from pro to amateur overnight), he went on to win Ateneo’s third game - against UST.

It was evident that in Ateneo’s first two setbacks, particularly the first one against UE, the Blue Eagles were a bit rusty, if not hungry for wins. Doubts as to Ateneo’s capability to retain the crown it so magnificently won last year against four-time champion La Salle quickly surfaced.

For one, Banal had a half-baked presence with the Blue Eagles in the run-up to the UAAP blast-off. I can understand that since Banal was then busy charting TNT’s championship strategy against Coca-Cola.

For another, Ateneo had to grapple with the absence of its four stars (Alvarez, Tenorio, Fonacier, Gonzales) in the thick of the Eagles’ preparation. The four had been commissioned to play in the PBL, thus disrupting somewhat the team’s prescribed period for blending.

Ateneo’s march to the Final Four is laden with obstacles and the crown seemingly sits on a shaky perch.

Everybody knows Banal will leave Ateneo in October to rejoin Talk ‘N Text. Win or lose, he has to leave the UAAP as PBA rules disallow its coaches from coaching in other leagues.

You can’t blame Banal for choosing TNT over Ateneo.

TNT is vocation, Ateneo avocation.

TNT is family future, Ateneo coffee money.

TNT is house and lot, Ateneo apartment.

TNT is Expedition, Ateneo tricycle.

TNT is totally MVP, Ateneo is partly MVP.

The truth is, the moment Banal made Ateneo champion, he earned a ticket to stardom. First, he won a PSA award as amateur coach of the year in 2002. Next, a PBA title in his rookie stint at TNT, achieved via a historic rally from 0-2 to win, 4-2.

If I may give Ateneo a piece of my mind, I suggest that Fr. Bienvenido Nebres gather his members in the search committee now and start scouting for Ateneo’s coach next year—and beyond.

They should do well again considering that they picked Bana
from among 35 aspirants last yea
Add the fact that choosing Bana
drew a whiff of controversy sinc
Banal beat two Ateneo alumni a
ter the candidates had bee
pruned down to three. Banal is
Mapua alumnus.

They were more than vindicate
as Ateneo’s victory was made dou
bly sweeter by the fact that it un
seated La Salle, which was the
seeking a historic fifth straigh
UAAP title.

I know that the task at hand i
for Ateneo to defend the UAA
crown. That is Banal’s job.

But the search for Banal’s re
placement is of import, too. That i
Fr. Nebres’ job.

If I may be allowed to use
cliché, Father?

The early bird catches the firs
worm.

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3 others join new teams

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o a squad that al-
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Sprewell cost Min-
Brandon, an All-
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orce him to retire.
nd has no general
ary will be off the

payroll by this time next year, giving the Hawks some flexibility. Moving Robinson's contract helps in that regard as well.

A two-time All-Star, Robinson was acquired last summer from Milwaukee and is headed for Philadelphia, where he may finally be the secondary scorer the 76ers need alongside superstar Allen Iverson.

The top overall pick in the 1994 draft, Robinson is considered one of the best mid-range shooters in the game. He averaged 20.8 points and 6.6 rebounds last season but shot a career-low 43 percent from the field.

Entering his 10th season, the 30-year-old Robinson has averaged 21.1 points and 6.2 rebounds. His contract runs through 2005.

Headed to New York is the much-maligned Van Horn, 27, who also was traded for the second straight summer. In his lone season with the Sixers, he averaged 15.9 points and 7.1 rebounds but played poorly in the post season.

The second overall pick in the 1997 draft, Van Horn has averaged 17.7 points and 7.5 rebounds in six seasons. His contract runs through 2006. *AFP*

HORPE

c showdown

Phelps got his first
wimming Champi-
e catching up to do

-year-old American also
in the 200 fly at the 2001
Fukuoka, Japan.
Takashi Yamamoto took
medal in 1:55.52, and
how of the United States
ronze in 1:55.66.
an an hour after his gold-
rformance, Phelps put the
team ahead in the first leg
0 freestyle relay. Phelps
nothing but watch, how-
ustralia and Thorpe even-
m to the gold medal.
olphins" team of Grant
Craig Stevens, Nicholas
and Thorpe won in
followed by the silver
Americans in 7:10.26
ze medalist Germany in
Australia holds the world
:04.66).
nericans were still lead-
into the third leg, but
recovered a large deficit
pe, better known as the

"Thorpedo," comfortably cruised to victory for his third gold medal of the championships.

At the 2001 worlds, Thorpe finished with six gold medals.

On Thursday, finals were scheduled for the men's 100 freestyle and 200 breaststroke and the women's 50 backstroke, 200 butterfly and 800 freestyle relay.

In Wednesday's women's 200 freestyle, Alena Popchanka of Belarus won the gold medal in 1:58.32, beating silver medalist Martina Moravcova (1:58.44) of Slovakia and bronze medalist Yang Yu of China (1:58.54).

James Gibson won Britain's first world championship gold medal since 1975 by taking the 50 breaststroke title. Gibson clocked 27.56. Oleg Lisogor of Ukraine took silver (27.74) while Mihaly Flaskay of Hungary got the bronze (27.79).

"I won that race in the heats and semis," Gibson said. "They had to come out and beat me today. I made sure I got it in their heads they weren't going to."

Twenty-eight years ago, David Wilkie won both the 100 and 200 breaststroke for Britain.

"British breaststrokers are here and here to stay," Gibson said.

In the 100 freestyle, world record-holder Pieter van den Hoogenband, who had the quickest time in the morning heats, also topped the semifinals.

The Dutch sprinter covered the single lap in the Palau St. Jordi pool in 48.39, 0.55 seconds off his world record of 47.84 set at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Russia's Alexander Popov was second in 48.51 and Thorpe was third in 48.71.

Each of the top three finishers improved on their times from the morning heats.

"It won't be easy tomorrow because Popov is in great shape," Van den Hoogenband said of his Russian rival for Thursday's final.

Don't count out Thorpe either. The 100 is not his specialty, but his time Wednesday was a personal best.

"It's quite a while since I've done a PB so I was really pleased," Thorpe said. "I'm looking forward to the final tomorrow. Hopefully I'll be able to back it up in the IM as well." *AP*

Triple victory treat from RP jungolfers

From page A25

California for the boys' 14-15 years title at the Mission Hills Country Club course.

Macatangay, a senior at La Salle-Lipa in Batangas, pitched to within a grip length for a gimme par on the third playoff hole to seal the victory in his first trip abroad after making another brilliant save from the greenside bunker in the previous hole to stay alive.

Up by six at the start of the round, Macatangay almost lost it all with an 81 that enabled Grieb, assembling a 74 under the torrid heat, to tie him at 228 after 54 holes.

Redemption came for Superal a week after letting what could have been a big victory in the Junior World in San Diego slip away.

Superal, who led in the final round in the Junior World but lost out to three foreign rivals, learned from his mistakes and prevailed at the expense of two-day leader Bradley Shigezawa of Honolulu, Hawaii in the boys' 10-11 years.

Superal simply outdueled Shigezawa in a last-day shootout, carding his best score in three days of two-under 70 to finish at 217, three better than the 220 of Shigezawa who could do no better than a 74.

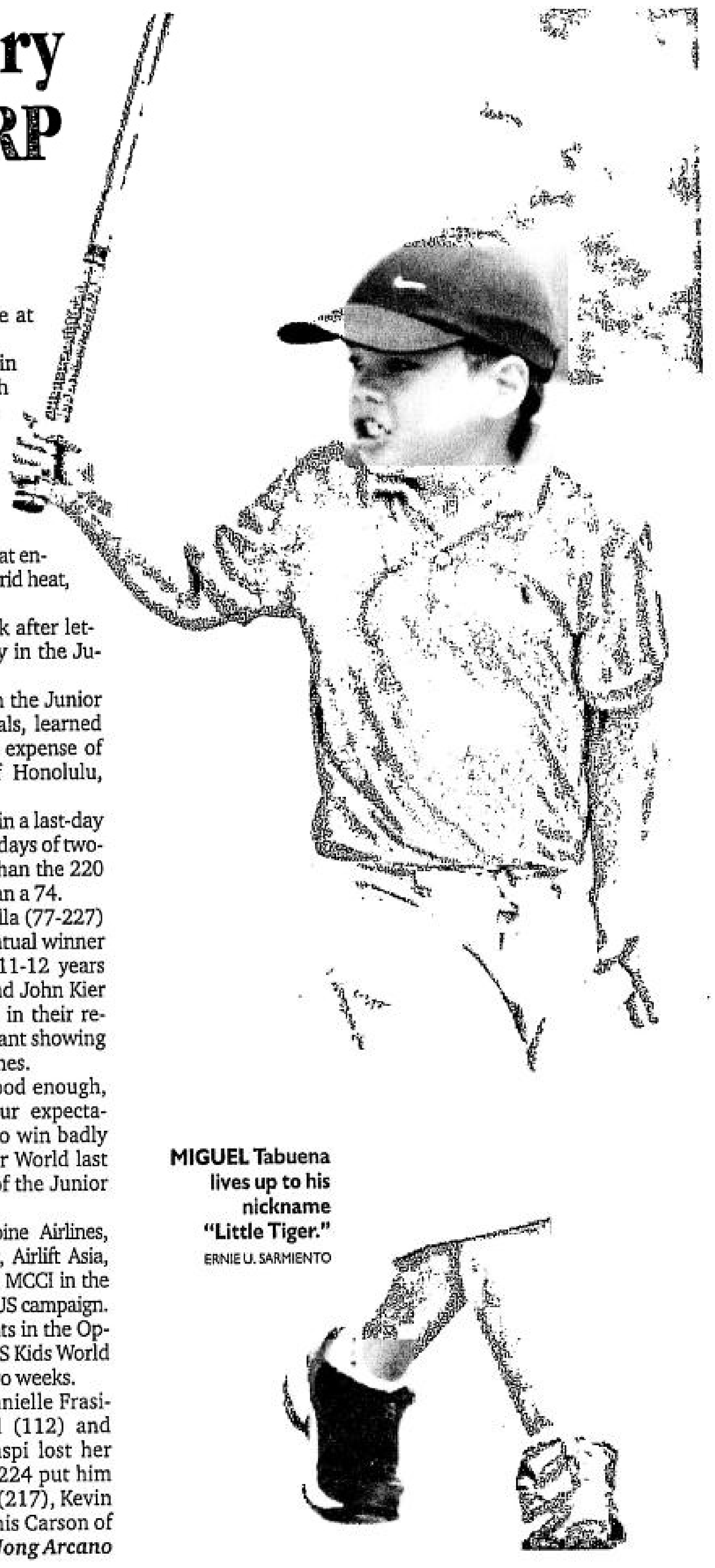
Mia Piccio (77-225) and Debbie de Villa (77-227) wound up second and third behind eventual winner Kimberly Kim of Hawaii in the girls' 11-12 years while Dottie Ardina (girls' 10-under) and John Kier Abdon (boys' 12-13) wound up fourth in their respective divisions to round out the brilliant showing by the 19-member strong Team Philippines.

"When a victory could have been good enough, winning three definitely exceeded our expectations. The kids probably just wanted to win badly after getting so close to it in the Junior World last week," said Gerry Handog, president of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

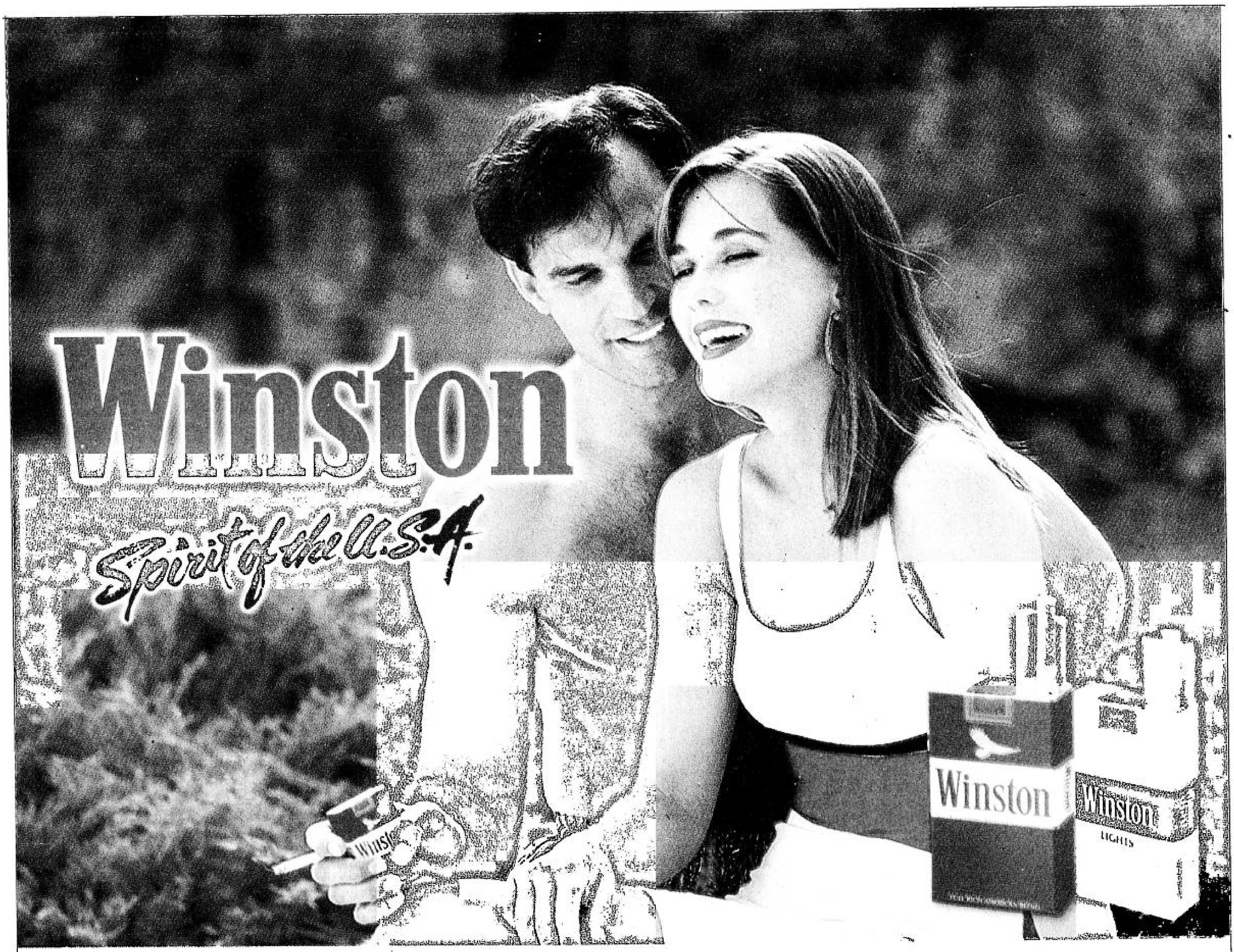
Handog cited the support of Philippine Airlines, Philippine Sports Commission, Samsung, Airlift Asia, Global Lighting, Manila Southwoods and MCCI in the big gains made by the contingent in their US campaign.

Up next for the RP jungolfers are stints in the Optimist International in Florida and the US Kids World Championship in Virginia in the next two weeks.

Ardina made it to fourth behind Danielle Frasier (110), Suwannapura of Thailand (112) and Okiro Cyd (116) while Andrea Legaspi lost her touch with a 44 for 120. Abdon's 72-224 put him behind Jonnie Motomochi of Canada (217), Kevin Colignon of Las Vegas (221) and Dennis Carson of Las Vegas (222). *Jong Arcano*



MIGUEL Tabuena lives up to his nickname "Little Tiger."
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO



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Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

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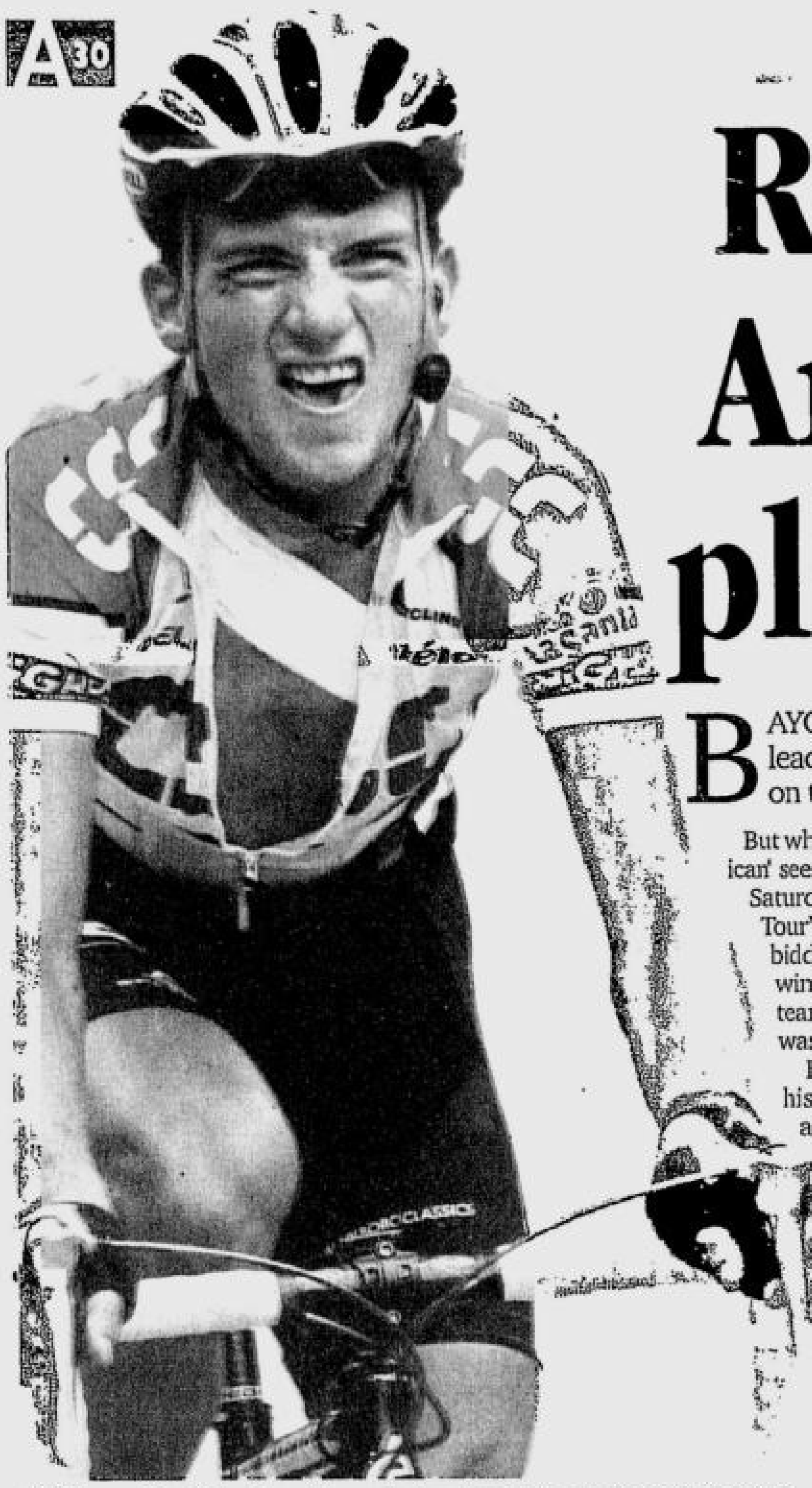


CSC team rider Tyler Hamilton, who fractured his collarbone in the first stage of the Tour de France, rides to victory in the 16th stage. REUTERS

Resurgent Armstrong plays it cool

BAYONNE, France—Lance Armstrong confidently retained his lead over Germany's Jan Ullrich after the last day of climbing on the 16th stage of the Tour de France here on Wednesday.

But while the 31-year-old American seems content to wait until Saturday's time trial on the Tour's penultimate day before bidding for a fifth consecutive win, his friend and former teammate Tyler Hamilton was in more of a hurry.

Hamilton, 32, claimed his first stage on the race after feeling so mad about struggling on the first climb that he went on a brave 140-km breakaway over some tough and tricky mountain passes in the French Basque country in a bid to repay his team-mates.

The American CSC rider, who had been tipped for a top five finish in this year's centenary Tour before a collarbone fracture hampered his campaign, came over the line alone to move up one place to sixth overall.

But Hamilton—whose best result so far was second on a time trial on the day the Festina drugs scandal sullied the 1998 Tour—quickly handed the credit to his team for their rescue efforts.

"I made a mistake, a big mistake," said Hamilton when asked why he had struggled to keep pace with the peloton on the day's first climb, a category four affair which should have caused him no problems.

"I went over that fourth category climb and it was a windy descent and fell too far back when a few attacks went.

"It was a big, big mistake and I had to call for help. Thankfully I had four or five team-mates who waited on me and helped me back into the group.

"It was my own fault and I want to thank the guys. They paid a big price for my mistake," added Hamilton, whose victory is CSC's third in the race after those of Spanish climber Carlos Sastre and Jakob Piil. *AFP*

'Rusty' Capriati survives Bartoli

CAPRIATI AP

STANFORD, California—Jennifer Capriati struggled to a 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 victory over Marion Bartoli in a second-round match at the Bank of West Classic.

In a tournament suddenly devoid of big names—Serena Williams, Lindsay Davenport, Monica Seles and Anna Kournikova withdrew due to injuries—the third-seeded Capriati is now a big draw. Her doubles match with partner Daniela Hantuchova was the featured contest on Tuesday.

"I'm here working on my game and playing tennis," Capriati said Wednesday after her latest victory. "You never know. Today I had a tough match. I have to get back to the mentality that I should be winning matches and I can still be number one."

Fifth-seeded Jelena Dokic joined Capriati in the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-2 victory Wednesday over Alexandra Stevenson, who strained her right shoulder and was forced to withdraw from a later doubles match.

"We always have tough matches," Dokic said. "She served well at the beginning but I was very focused. I didn't let up."

Second-seeded Kim Clijsters opens play Thursday night against Stanford sophomore Amber Liu, the reigning NCAA singles champion. No one replaced Williams as the top seed after the Wimbledon champion withdrew.

Capriati, ranked No. 1 for 17 weeks in the fall of 2001, hasn't won a tournament since the 2002 Australian Open.

"I've been close," she said. "There are a few players close at the top. It's a fine line. I think I'm playing the best tennis I have so far this year."

Bartoli overcame early nerves to win the second set.

"I played the second set the right way," she said. "In third set I tried to do too much. You have to play perfectly if you want to win a point."

Seventh-seeded Eleni Daniilidou beat Tina Pisnik 6-1, 6-2 in a first-round match and will meet Francesca Schiavone in the second round.

"That was a very good start," Daniilidou said. She lost to Schiavone at Warsaw earlier. *AP*

DIVE SHOPPE
2003 SPORTS HOUS
CORPORATE & CELEBRITY
CHAMPION

DIVE Shoppe team members celebrate after winning the 2003 Sports House Corporate and Celebrity badminton title recently. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Unbeaten Paro fights Barcelona tomorrow

By Salven L. Lagumbay

UNBEATEN RP no. 4 superfly Sherwin "Super Assassin" Paro of the ALA Stable showcases his power once again when he fights the veteran Nathan Barcelona this Saturday in the mainer of Sammy Gelloani's "Back 2 Back" card at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex.

The 20-year-old Paro, the WBC no. 30 who is now handled by Marty Elorde and Tony Aldeguer, remains unbeaten in 10 fights with 6 KO's. He recently moved up to the heavier superfly category (115 lbs).

RP junior fly champion Bert "Ninja" Batawang (29-10-3, 23 KO's) tangles with Sherwin Manatad in the other 10-round clash. Batawang, who is the top-ranked challenger in both the OPBF and PABA, is scheduled to defend his RP title on Aug. 30 against mandatory challenger Celso Danggod of Manila.

"Paro's jab and body punches will mesmerize fans this Saturday. He is working hard on improving his already vast arsenal," said trainer Edito "Ala" Villamor in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Villamor added that Paro has had close to 100 rounds of sparring in preparation for the 29-year-old Barcelona.

If victorious, Paro will fight again on Aug. 30 in the Bobby Pacquiao-Bart Abapo championship.

Expected to steal the limelight is the Nonoy "Terminator" Plomeda-Michael Domingo clash.

Whaley chases history at Greater Hartford

WHALEY AP

CROMWELL, Connecticut—Suzy Whaley will follow Annika Sorenstam's lead on Thursday when she tees off against the men at the Greater Hartford Open, although her participation has not attracted as much interest as the Swede's.

The 36-year-old teaching professional may have also struggled for media attention if surprise British Open winner Ben Curtis had not withdrawn on Tuesday, but his absence has thrust the Connecticut native firmly into the spotlight.

Playing from the ladies tees, Whaley won a PGA sectional tournament in her home state last autumn to qualify for this event and if Sorenstam had not competed in the Colonial in May, she would have been the first female to compete against the men in 58 years.

Juggling two jobs—a teaching pro and mother of two daughters—makes it difficult for Whaley to play much competitive golf.

However, she tied for 48th place last week in the LPGA Big Apple Classic with a seven-over total of 291 and is relishing the challenge of competing in a PGA event.

"This is the pinnacle of anything I've ever done," Whaley said. "For me to be here is an honour and a privilege. My swing is in good shape and I feel good about it." Whaley played 13 holes of practice on Tuesday before a thunderstorm ended her round, but she saw enough of the course to plan her strategy.

"I didn't see many surprises," Whaley said of the par-70, 6,280-yard layout.

Whaley has avoided comparing herself to world number one Sorenstam, who shot a 71 and a 74 and missed the cut at the Colonial. *Reuters*

US volleybelles grab Grand Prix lead

GIOIA DEL COLLE, Italy—The United States beat the Netherlands in the World Grand Prix women's volleyball tournament on Wednesday, gaining the top spot in its group.

In Pool A, the United States dealt the Dutch their first loss of the tournament, with a win in straight sets 25-23, 25-20, 25-15. The American team is undefeated at 3-0 while the Netherlands dropped to 2-1.

Also in Pool A, Germany beat Japan 25-13, 17-25, 26-24, 25-21.

In Pool B, titleholders Russia edged Brazil in five sets 25-16, 20-25, 25-17, 21-25, 15-13.

South Korea led Group B, after beating Canada 25-18, 18-25, 25-13, 25-23.

Also playing Wednesday were Thailand vs. China; and Italy vs. Cuba.

The top three teams from each pool advance to a round-robin final beginning July 28.

The tournament was moved to Italy this year due to fears of SARS. *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

RP karatekas snare 2 golds in Greece

THE AAK (Association for the Advancement of Karatedo) Team Philippines won 2 gold medals in the recent 12th KOI Karate World Cup held in Evia, Greece. Roberto Miguel Velasquez topped the 14-15 years individual kata while Raissa Mikaela Velasquez ruled the 10-11 years girls' individual kata, respectively. Former Southeast Asian Games gold medallists Richard Lim and Juan Carlos "Chino" Veguillas mentored AAK Team Philippines. The silver medalists were Jeremiah Tan (6-9 years old boys' individual kumite), Rebecca Cyril Torres (10-11 girls' individual kata) and Norman Montalvo (16 boys' individual kata). Raissa Mikaela also accounted for a bronze in the 10-11 girls' individual kumite. Other bronze medalists were Norman Montalvo (15+boys individual kata all styles), Joel Eddie Mallillin (men's individual kata), and Raoul Xavier Resurrecion (men's individual kata). In the team event, the Philippines took the bronzes in the 16 years old boys' kata (Norman Motalvo, Roberto Miguel Velasquez, Vincent Filologo Pante); boys' kumite (Carlo Miguel Berba, Chistopher David Feliciano, Christian Gerard Alcones and Gerard dela Vega Tolentino); 14-15 boys' kumite (Roberto Miguel Velasquez, Vincent Filologo Pante, Jert Stephen Yao, Karl Martin Salcedo); and 16-17 cadet kumite (Norman Montalvo, Harvey Christopher Sy, Muhammad Abdul-Rahim Ampatuan, Gerardo Rodrigo Anonas).

Perez Davao's best female athlete

SYDNEY Olympian Sheila Mae Perez and sports commissioner Leon Montemayor led the awardees of the 9th SKC (So Kim Cheng) Sports Awards night held recently in Davao City. Perez, one of two RP divers who saw action in the 2000 Olympics, was named women's 'Athlete of the Year.' The pretty 18-year-old is a gold medal prospect in the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam this December. Named men's 'Athlete of the Year' was long distance runner Roy Ocon, triple gold medalist in the last National Open Track and Field Championship. Thirty-two regional athletes and six sports organizations were also honored during the ceremonies organized by the SKC Foundation with support from the Davao City Sports Council. PSC chair Eric Buhain was guest of honor and keynote speaker during the simple rite.

Peace tournament resumes today

The fifth leg of the 2003 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or Peace 2003 unfolds at 1 p.m. on July 26 at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila. The monthly event is being organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) with the support of Belgosa Media Systems and Land Bank. Executives and professionals who want to join Peace 2003 may contact the Acca at tel. no. 892-8759 for details. Tyrone Guya of Nippon Life and Richard Villaseran of J. Walter Thompson lead the grand prix standings in the Elite and Classic sections, respectively. Guya has 63 points while Villaseran totes 64 points.

Shell youth active chess slated

THE 2003 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship gets underway with the Mindanao Leg at the Gaisano Mall in Davao City on Aug. 9 to 10. This year's nationwide tournament, sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, is being co-sponsored by McDonald's Philippines, WG&A Super Ferry and the Philippine Chess Society. Open to all students 20 years old and below, the tournament will have five legs: Mindanao, Central/Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Southern Luzon and Northern Luzon/NCR. Cebu City will host the Central/Western leg on Aug. 16 to 17, while Bacolod City will be the venue for the Eastern Visayas eliminations on Aug. 23 to 24.

Lina 6-Footers Cup goes to Cebu

THE 2ND Bert Lina Cup-Six Footers Junior Basketball League will be held July 27-Aug. 2 at the University of San Carlos Gym in Cebu City. The tournament, confined to players who are 18 years and under and are over six feet tall, is a brainchild of Air 21 chair Bert Lina. Lina believes that tall players must be trained to the ways of the point guard to be successful internationally. Backing the tournament are Air 21, samsung, PLDT, Purefoods and Sen. John Osmena.

Scoop tackles PBA backdoor advertising

EALA

THE CONTROVERSY involving the so-called "backdoor advertising" inside the Araneta Coliseum and the Philsports Arena and the Samsung Philippine Basketball Association Invitational Cup will be the topic in today's SCOOP sa Kamayan at the Kamayan Restaurant on West Ave. in Quezon City. PBA Commissioner Noli Eala has agreed to grace today's session and tackle the foreign teams-laced Invitationals, which opens shop on Sunday as well as the details of in-house ads brouhaha that is threatening to reach the courts. Also appearing in the session, sponsored by Photokina Marketing, are the men responsible for the staging of the Danny Espiritu Cup, headed by the Millennium Basketball League chair Alex Wong and project director George Palaran.

Anton seeks 4th sweep in Grand Prix

ROSARIO, Batangas—Carlos Anton of Red Horse-Gulf Oil-MP Turbo's Carlos Anton eyes a fourth sweep while JP Cariño of Intelco Racing-Casino Filipino-Edgesport and Jeremy Marquez of Casino Filipino-Skytrek-AF3 Edgesport dispute solo lead today in the 2003 Casino Filipino Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit here. Anton holds 60 points and another sweep of Rounds 7 and 8 will further boost his title chances in the National Touring Car Championship sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Toyota Motor Phils., Kilton Motors, MOF Company, Norkis Yamaha, Pagcor Sports and Addict Mobile. Out to stop him are Philip Alvendia of A3 Motorsports (44 pts.), Mato Tan of Matonetics (33 pts.) and Rey Reyes of AF3-Auto Klasse and Ferdie Ong of Speedwelle-Rota. The rivalry between Cariño and Marquez in the Formula Toyota Cup is expected to turn intense as they hold the top two spots. Marquez leads the title race with 100 points.

National Rallycross 4th round set Sunday

THE COUNTRY'S top rallycross drivers battle it out for the fourth round of the Ultron National Rallycross Series on Sunday. It's a virtual neck-and-neck race between 10-time national rally champion Vip Isada, current national rallycross champion Ivan Isada and upstart Kenneth Dominado in the national championships. Only one point separates Vip and Kenneth while Ivan is only two points short. The same is true for the overall race. Ivan leads Vip by three points while Vip only has a one-point lead over Kenneth. Organizer Activity Asia Association expects more than 35 participants to join this Sunday's race that will run through a one-kilometer special track laid out at the CCP Complex along Roxas Boulevard, near the World Trade Center.

Camarines Sur plays host to junior netfest

THE 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop hosted by the Nordia Tennis Club will be held in Canaman, Camarines Sur starting tomorrow. The Milo netfest is being coordinated with Nordia's Ms Norma Cea Pappas, provincial tennis director Efren Enverga and Philta VP Region-5 Alfredo Magdangal. Featured events in the Children's Tennis Workshop organized age group tournament sanctioned by Philta and supported by Wilson balls, Adidas, and Sports Kids are the boys' and girls' 18-under, 14-under, 12-under and the unisex 10-under.

Pasay cockpit stakes P300,000 tonight

A CASH prize of P300,000 is at stake in a 4-cock derby to be held today at the Pasay City Cockpit. More than 50 fights have been slated starting at 7 p.m. The derby is sponsored by Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Complexor. Derby host is pit manager Butchoy Olano. Entry fee is P10,000. Submission of weights is from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meanwhile, more than 100 entries are expected to compete in the upcoming "Sagupaan sa Tag-Ulan 4-Cock Derby" on July 30 and Aug. 1, with partners Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola as hosts. The guaranteed prize at stake is P600,000 plus two brand new owner-type jeeps. Entry fee is P6,600. Badiola said that entries must be submitted on Tuesday, July 29, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Derby starts at 2 p.m. on Wednesday. For reservation of cockhouses, contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Rotary golf underway in Del Monte

THE 17th Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) tournament started yesterday with 200 Rotarians, sponsors and guests competing at the Pueblo del Oro in Cagayan and Del Monte Golf Club in Bukidnon for the 36-hole team and individual competitions. Richie Garcia and his Rotary of Bacolod team will be gunning for a repeat of last year's sweep at home. Notables in the field include Congressmen Constantino Jaraula, Cirilo Badilles, Ruy Lopez and Bojie Dy. The RGFFP is headed by Melito Salazar.

All set for Metro Manila qualifying run Sunday

CLOSE to 10,000 runners are expected at the starting line across the Quirino Grandstand when the 27th National Milo Marathon holds its Metro Manila 42K qualifying race this Sunday.

This is the biggest starting field so far in the history of the event.

But even as the bulk of the runners will be in the shorter 3K, 5K and 10K races, attention will be on the full marathon qualifying race which will determine who will be joining the other regional qualifiers and defending champions Eduardo Buenavista and Geraldine Sealza in the national finals on Oct.19.

In order to qualify for the finals, male runners should complete the 42K distance in 4 hours or less while in the women's side, the qualifying time is 4:30 with the top long distance runners expected to come out in full force.

The champions in the qualifying races will also receive P30,000 each.

Adding color to the Sunday morning event will be the participation of celebrity runners Heart Evangelista, John Pratts and Goyong in the 5K run.

The event also features a cheering competition among the schools entered.

The 42K marathon will start at 4:30 a.m. The shorter-distance races get going at 6 a.m.

DOMINANT: Players and officials of the Kaya football team.

Kaya booters take Samsung Cup

KAYA FC swept the recent 1st Samsung United Football League with an 11-1 thrashing of Union FC at the Nomad Sports Club in Merville, Paranaque.

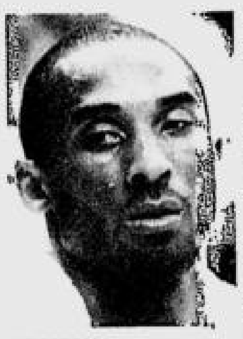
It was the ninth straight victory in as many matches for Kaya FC, which scored a total of 50 goals in the 10-team tournament.

Kaya skipper Christian Lozano, son of ex-national striker and coach Tomas Lozano, received the Samsung Cup along with manager/coach Chris Hagedorn during the awards night.

Pasargad FC of coach Darius Irani, finished second with a 6-win, 1-draw, 2-loss card.

The Manila All-Japan football club of coach Kenji Sakamoto placed third at 6-0-3, while the RP Under-18 team of coach Aris Caslib settled for fourth at 5-0-4. The NCR Football Association, through its president Santi Elizalde, general secretary Phil Hagedorn and the entire board, thanked Samsung for promoting football in the country.

Kobe's legal defense team strong



BRYANT

DENVER—Kobe Bryant's legal dream team consists of two low-profile attorneys with a client list ranging from JonBenet Ramsey's father to retired Avalanche goalie Patrick Roy and writer Hunter S. Thompson.

One of them, Pamela Mackey, knows the prosecutor well and the other, Hal Haddon, ran former Sen. Gary Hart's 1988 presidential campaign.

Colleagues say they are well-respected across Colorado for a meticulous work ethic, and could prove a formidable obstacle for prosecutors trying to convict the Los Angeles Lakers superstar of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old woman.

"Nobody has a better success ratio," longtime Denver criminal defense attorney Robert McAllister said. "They'll leave no stone unturned. No avenue not driven down."

The 24-year-old Bryant is free on bail and is set to appear in court Aug. 6. He is charged with sexually assaulting the woman June 30 in his suite at the Lodge & Spa at the Cordillera in Edwards, about 160 km west of Denver. Bryant says the sex was consensual. *AP*

Roma, Castillo prevail

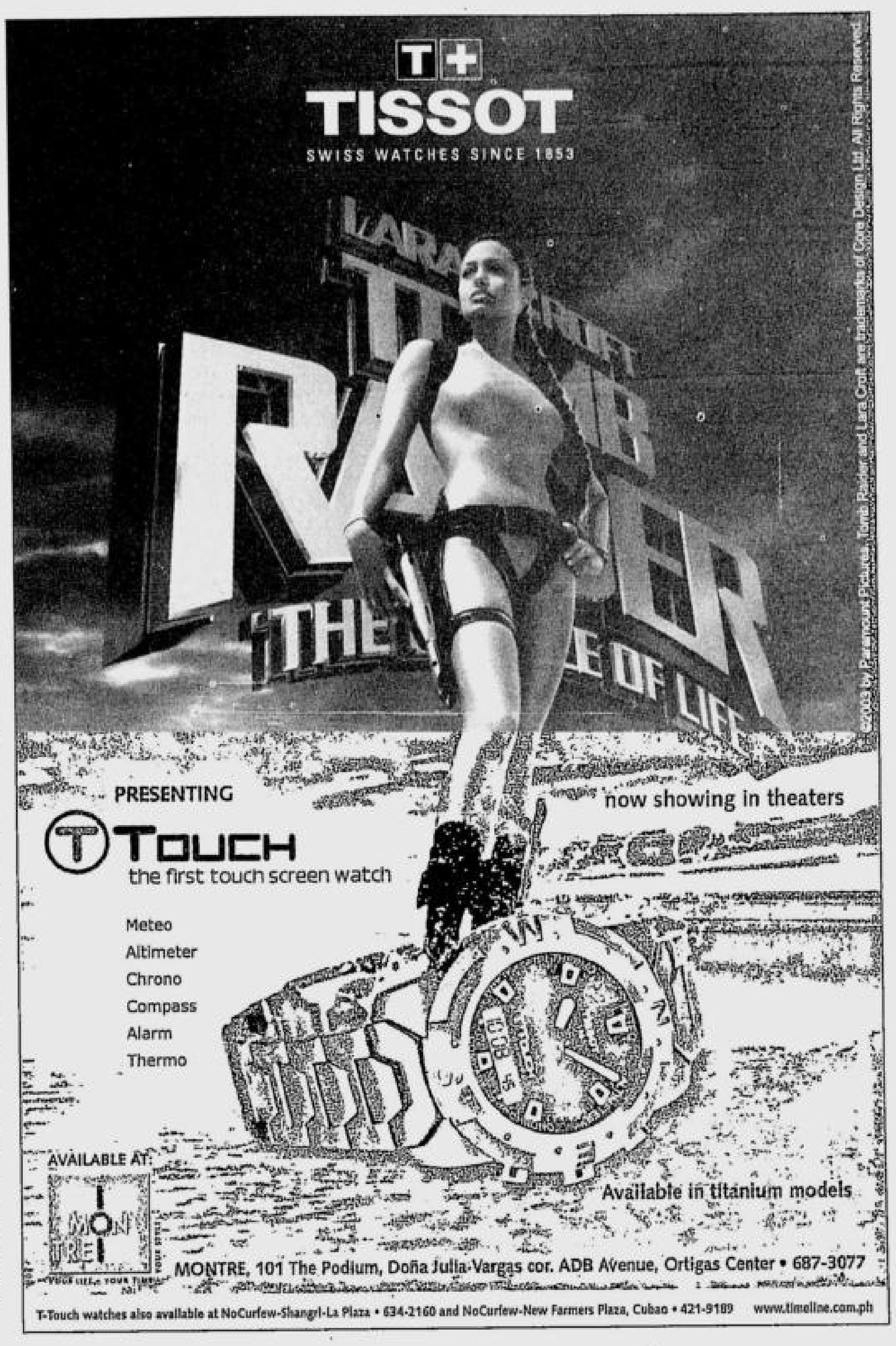
BOY Roma and Indang Castillo came up with big games in the stepladder finals to capture the men's and ladies' singles (class A/B) title in the PHIDBC National Charter Day duckpin bowling championships recently at the Marketplace Center along Kalentong St., Mandaluyong City.

Roma of NSBA crushed top qualifier Edwin Geregria, 251-191, in the men's finals after bumping off Lito Gan, 120-86, in the first match.

Castillo of Cadba took a similar route to the ladies' crown, beating D'Friendly's Ces Ubana, 223-201, in the finals after knocking out Geena Gregorio, 103-96.

NSBA W Lily 1 and MDBC SMB ruled the men's and ladies' team competitions, respectively.

The other champions in the tourney supported by the Philippine Olympic Committee were Bert Gera and Nita dela Cruz, class C singles; and Len Len de Castro and Mars Ilao, mixed doubles.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Find out what's news on July 27.

NSA heads urged to air complaints

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SPEAK up!

That's the order by the Philippine Olympic Committee to the national sports association presidents who conferred with Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain in a rare fellowship meeting yesterday.

POC vice president Steve Hontiveros said he has urged the NSA heads to tell Buhain all their needs, expectations and even complaints because it's a good opportunity to communicate with the agency that bankrolls their operations and athletes' training.

"If they (NSA heads) have to put things in black and white then they must put it into writing," Hontiveros told the INQUIRER. "This is the time to speak up and not after when something bad has happened."

The POC has lauded the PSC's move to lend an ear to the NSAs, particularly those whose athletes are competing in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games on Dec. 5-13.

Hontiveros said NSAs usually fail to inform the PSC about lack of chances to compete or train abroad or delays in purchasing equipment.

Buhain, who will meet the NSA officials for the second time today, said the PSC is ready to act on the requests of the NSAs even as he stressed that the agency will give priority to those with more pressing needs.

"These meetings are certainly steps forward in our effort to unify our actions and undertakings for the benefit of national athletes gearing up for the SEA Games," said Buhain, whose agency is committed to finance almost 500 athletes in Vietnam.

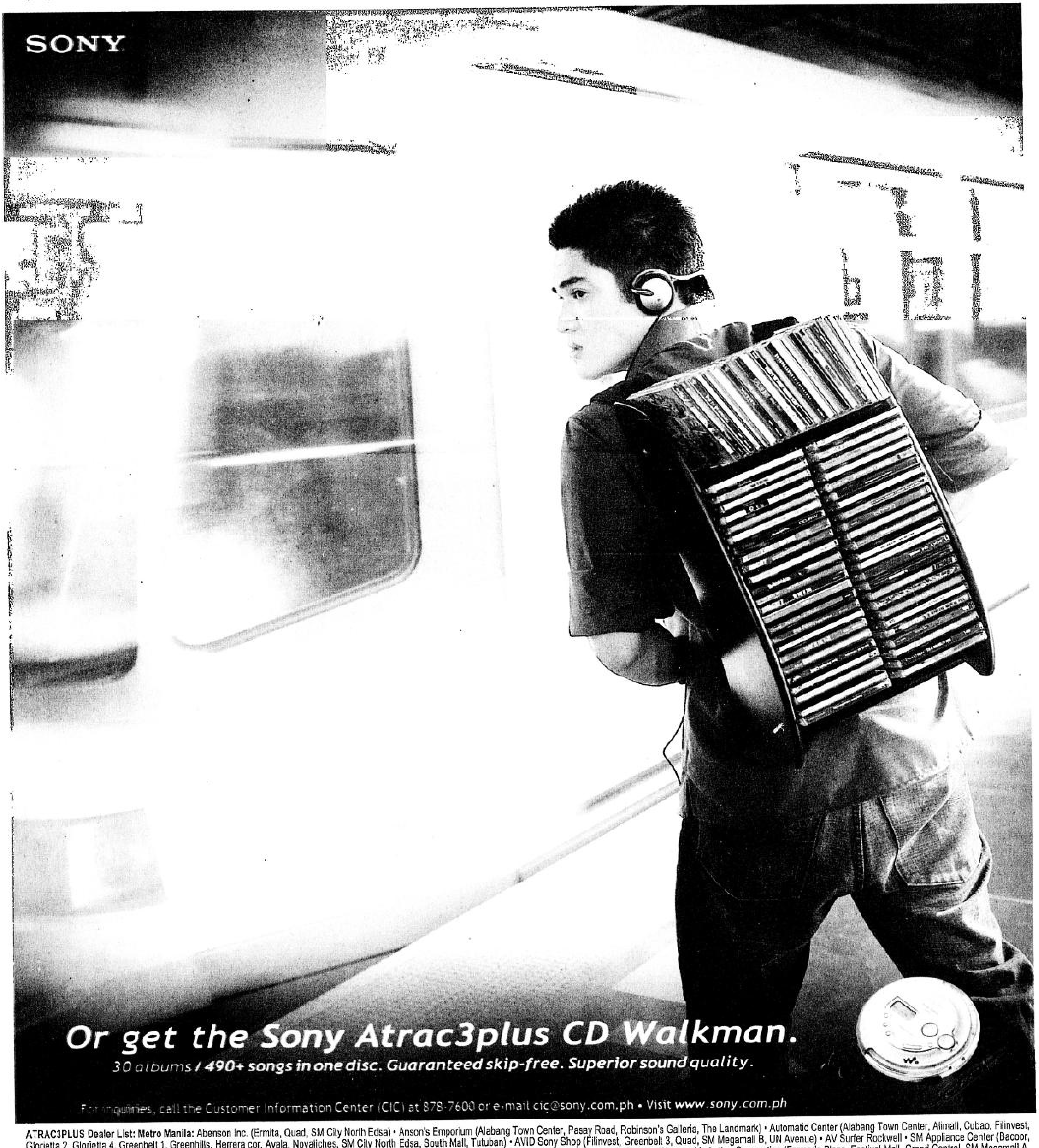
"We also envisioned this dialogue to forge greater understanding and collaboration among stake-holders in the local sports community," he added.

There are already 379 athletes approved by the SEAG Task Force for inclusion to the RP contingent with 105 more hoping to make it from the conditional list.

Hontiveros, who also heads the Task Force, said the total number of athletes may be reduced but will certainly not increase because the roster has gone through strict scrutiny.

He added that the case of baseball won't be repeated this time. The national sluggers snagged slots to the 2002 Busan Asian Games but failed to win a single match.

BUHAIN: So he will know.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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

George Ty eyes 40% of power sector

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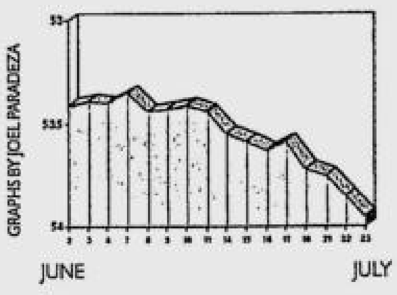

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per ounce Hong Kong, July 24, 2003

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TAIPAN George Ty is bent on controlling as much as 40 percent of the country's generation facilities through key partnerships and acquisition of independent power producers over the next few months.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said the government welcomed the interest of Ty and his Metrobank group in the power generation business particularly in view of a looming power crisis in the Visayas (2004), Mindanao (2006), and Luzon (2008).

Perez said Ty, through Metrobank's investment house First Metro Investments Corp., has forged a new 50-50 venture (dubbed Claridon Holdings) with Mirant Philippines Inc. to put up a 40-megawatt power plant on Panay Island worth $40 million. The new power plant is expected to start operation early next year.

Ty's new power investment has come less than a month after he took over the Lopez group's Panay Power Corp. for P2.33 billion also in partnership with Mirant, the Philippines' biggest profit maker among the country's top 1,000 corporations. Panay Power operates a 72-megawatt power plant which the Lopez group was forced to sell to pay its maturing foreign-denominated debt.

"We're happy to see a fresh face in the energy sector that is interested in a critical area for power supply," Perez said.

The Cebu-Negros-Panay provinces were likely to be saddled with a power shortfall estimated at 158 MW because of low dependable capacity generation and surging power consumption.

The DOE is hoping to divert to the Cebu-Negros-Panay area part of the excess supply from Leyte-Samar (511 MW) that is currently exported to Luzon and Bohol. Key projects to be implemented in the area are the Leyte-Cebu interconnection uprating (to be completed

GEORGE/B2

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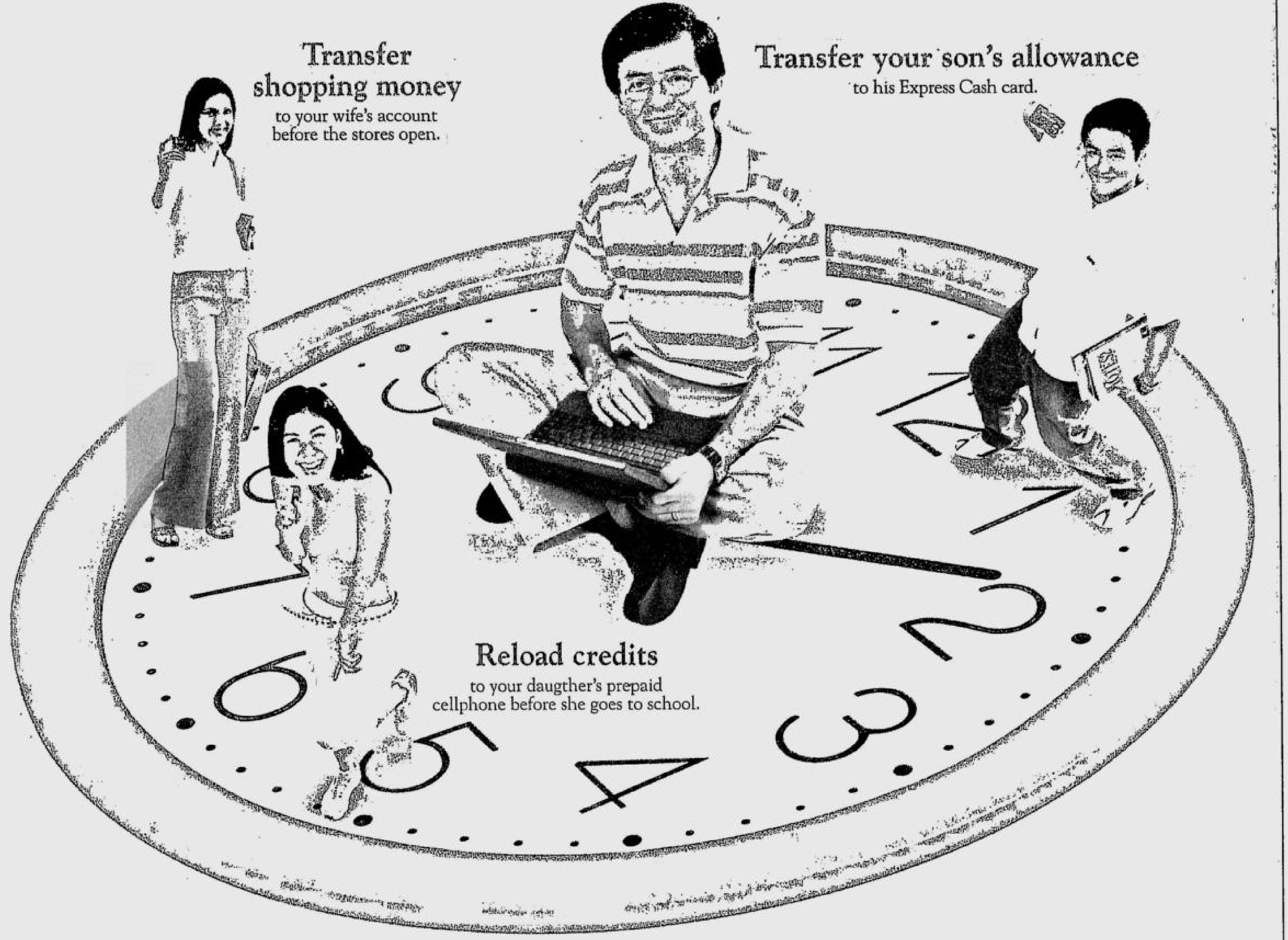

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Nenaco eyes ₱600M in equity from prospective investors

By Doris C. Dumlao

NEGROS Navigation Co., the shipping unit of Metro Pacific Corp., is in talks with two potential investors to bring in at least P600 million in fresh capital and take up as much as 46 percent of its equity within the year.

In a briefing yesterday, Nenaco chief adviser to the president Seumas Gallacher said the new capital infusion being worked out was needed to sustain the shipping firm's financial turnaround.

In the first half of 2003, Nenaco chalked up P62.7 million in net profits, 19 percent better than the P52.5-million windfall a year ago. It is now on its second year of returning to profitability after years of financial losses.

Asked how Nenaco would likely fare by the year's end, he said: "We are looking at a number significantly in excess of last year's figures."

Nenaco posted P102.7 million in net profits in 2002, a reversal of the P1.8-billion loss in 2001.

The P600 million in new capital initially being sought by Nenaco, Gallacher said, should be in the form of either cash or assets such as additional cargo vessels.

Nenaco wanted to invest in hard equipment and new vessels to strengthen its business.

He said MPC, which currently owns 97.4 percent of the shipping firm, would still like to retain at least a 51-percent stake despite the entry of a new investor.

"MPC's stake should go down below 67 percent so remaining shareholdings should be between 51 and 67 percent," he said.

Gallacher said the potential investors were local companies involved in the same shipping business. However, he said Nenaco was not in talks with the existing or former shareholders of William, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc., the biggest shipping firm in the country.

Asked whether the talks could lead to a merger, he said: "If a merger comes as a mechanism that works, then we won't be adverse to that."

Nenaco, which has a fleet consisting of seven mixed-use cargo and passenger vessels and two cargo-only vessels, claims to have a 45-percent share of the Philippine passenger market and 13 percent of the cargo market.

Meanwhile, the improvement in the company's profits in the first semester was attributed to sustained reductions in certain overhead expenses as well as financing and tax charges.

Consolidated revenues for the first half stood at P1.31 billion, a slight reduction from P1.37 billion posted a year ago, due to a temporary reduction in freight capacity resulting from the holding of freighter Nuestra Señora de Fatima by the Philippine Coast Guard in Batangas early this year.

"The Fatima had been held pending resolution of a joint investigation between the PCG and Nenaco management after it was discovered that the company had been a victim of an illegal smuggling operation," a company statement said.

"At the outcome of the investigation, Nenaco was declared by the PCG and other maritime authorities to be an unknowing victim of that operation and subsequently, the Fatima was released during the second quarter of 2003 and returned to full service," it added.

Trans-Asia offers to build power plant in Panay

TRANS-ASIA Power Generation Corp., a joint venture between the Trans-Asia and Phinma groups, has offered to build a new power plant on Panay Island through the build-operate-transfer scheme, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said yesterday.

Perez told reporters at the sidelines of the Philippine Business Outlook conference hosted by the Knowledge Institute that the government was now generating renewed interest from the private sector to invest in the power sector.

"We are now seeing new entrants in the market," he said.

There is a shortage of power supply in the Visayas region, prompting the government to seek new investors in the energy sector.

During the conference yesterday, Perez noted that the looming power crisis in the Visayas was a big challenge. The crisis is expected to peak by December this year.

Other firms which had earlier expressed interest to put up power facilities in the region were Alstom, Artech and Power One. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Worldcom softens stance on dispute with RP carriers

By Abigail L. Ho

AMERICAN carrier MCI Worldcom Inc. has offered compromise termination rates to local carriers, a possible prelude to the settlement of the termination rates row that began early this year.

An industry source disclosed that when representatives of MCI Worldcom met with local telecommunications firms a week ago, they offered rates higher than what they were initially willing to pay their Philippine counterparts.

"MCI Worldcom was willing to increase the rates. It offered 10.5 US cents for landlines and 14 US cents for cellular," the source said.

But he stressed that local carriers were not likely to back down and give the American carriers special rates when most foreign carriers have already agreed to the higher rates imposed by local firms starting Feb. 1.

On that day, local carriers raised termination rates from 8 US cents to 12 US cents for landlines and from 12 US cents to 16 US cents for cellular.

Termination rates are what a telecom firm pays another carrier to which its subscriber's call is terminated or completed.

While most foreign carriers have agreed to the new rates after negotiations, Worldcom and another American firm, AT&T Corp., refused to accept the new rates.

The two American carriers then filed a case against the Philippine carriers with the International Bureau of the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

AT&T and Worldcom accused local carriers of whipsawing, or pitting US carriers against each other to get better deals.

FCC International Bureau chief Donald Abelson ruled in favor of the US carriers and effectively suspended payments from all US carriers to their Philippine partners.

The bureau has yet to issue a final decision on the case, even after Philippine carriers had submitted their motions and responses months ago.

The National Telecommunications Commission said the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Trade and Industry have both been asking how the impasse could be resolved.

WORLDCOM/ B5

WEAK PESO, PROFIT-TAKING

Stock prices down 1.02%

SHARES closed lower in light trade yesterday as concerns over the weak peso weighed on market sentiment and led to profit taking in key blue chip firms such as Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

A continued slide in the peso, which central bank officials attribute to seasonal demand and regional weakness, would put pressure on local interest rates and corporate earnings performance.

But traders said the market's appetite for equity investments remained healthy, with investors just waiting for the index to touch certain levels before returning to accumulate more stocks.

The Philippine stock index lost 1.02 percent or 13.22 points at 1,285.37 points, but the market was still up 26.21 percent so far this year.

The peso touched a fresh four-month low of 54.23 to the dollar in morning trade yesterday against its close of P54.025 the previous day.

"Overall, the outlook for the market continues to be upbeat," said Jose Vistan, analyst at AB Capital Securities Inc.

"There may be some consolidation at 1,280 to the 1,300 range, but buying support should come in at the 1,280 mark."

Value turnover narrowed to P439.48 million versus P633.57 million on Wednesday. Losers outpaced gainers 43 to 30, and 47 issues were unchanged.

Dominant phone firm PLDT edged down 1.8 percent or P10 to close at P545 as the market took its cue from the 1.64 percent fall in its American Depositary Receipts traded in New York.

Top property firm Ayala Land Inc. lost 2.9 percent or 20 centavos to end at P6.70 as worries about the peso's slide and its impact on interest rates, and consequently on property investments, fueled profit taking in the stock.

Globe Telecom, the country's second largest phone firm, slid 2.8 percent or P20 to end at P695 after some brokerage houses downgraded their recommendation on the stock to neutral from buy when the stock's valuation became too pricey. Globe has surged 55.3 percent so far this year at yesterday's close. *Reuters*

George Ty eyes 40% of power sector

From page B1

in 2005), the Panay Transmission Backbone project (2005), Negros-Panay Interconnection uprating (2006-2007), and Negros-Cebu interconnection.

But Perez said the most immediate solution to averting a power crisis was still new investments in power generation and transmission facilities in the power-short areas, which was why Ty's interest in power generation was embraced by the DOE.

In the Malacañang briefing, he said: "Power reform is a work in progress and we're only two years in the system. The oil deregulation is already five years old and we have seen competitive prices in oil. Let us be patient and let the power reforms take place."

INTEREST RATES

July 24, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 24-Jul-03	MART1 23-Jul-03
1 Month	6.26	6.2304
3 Months	6.2536	6.2143
6 Months	6.7617	6.721
1 Year	7.2982	7.2038
2 Years	8.68	8.6567
3 Years	9.465	9.335
4 Years	9.9067	9.8
5 Years	10.125	10.0231
7 Years	10.9667	10.9333
10 Years	11.3383	11.2723
20 Years	11.95	11.9342
25 Years	12.3033	12.2833

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(As of July 24, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	21,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19.25	19.25	19	19	7,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48.5	49	48	48.5	910,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34	33.5	34	48,900
First E-Bank Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	31	31.5	679,100
Philippine National Bank	27	27	26.5	27	95,300
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	64,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	22.5	22.25	22.5	94,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	20,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3	3	3	3	6,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1500	1520	1500	1520	950
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.34	1.28	1.34	1,109,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1100	1110	1000	1110	5,490
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	21.5	21	21	13,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.71	3,160,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	715	715	690	695	23,210
Ipeople Inc.	0.94	0.95	0.93	0.95	400,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.055	0.055	3,800,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.033	13,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	110,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.58	0.61	6,110,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	555	555	530	545	132,030
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	5,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.25	12.5	12	12.25	216,900
Manila Electric Co. B	18.25	18.25	17.75	18.25	1,144,000
Petron Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.12	2,551,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	366,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	400,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	70,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	410,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	162,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	24,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17	109,600
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53	53	52.5	53	22,900
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62	62	62	99,000
Universal Robina Corp.	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.9	818,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	30,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	60,000
Ayala Corp.	4.95	4.95	4.85	4.9	1,000,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	235,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.039	0.041	0.038	0.04	8,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.75	0.77	0.75	0.77	260,000
APC Group Inc.	0.09	0.105	0.09	0.105	2,800,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	64,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.17	0.2	0.16	0.2	700,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.9	1.84	1.88	101,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.73	0.78	43,830,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.13	0.15	750,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2,000,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc	0.28	0.3	0.27	0.3	5,630,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	400,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	16.25	16.5	16	16.25	903,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.2	0.24	0.2	0.23	1,750,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.12	0.14	3,680,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	10,000
Ionics Inc.	1.6	1.76	1.52	1.74	2,117,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	2,440,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	2,370,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.31	0.34	17,450,000
Music Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.41	0.44	1,890,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	40,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	158,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	1,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	1,300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.75	17	16.75	16.75	110,300
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	3,460,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	490,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.26	1,140,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.5	21.5	21	21	193,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.0024	0.002	0.0024	21,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.7	13,925,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	500,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.205	0.195	0.205	11,930,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	4,950,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.12	8,898,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	60,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.23	0.28	0.23	0.27	6,370,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.205	0.215	7,000,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.06	2.08	2.06	2.08	80,000
SM Development Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	8,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	2,921,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.11	0.15	0.11	0.15	100,000
Apex Mining Co., Inc. B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	60,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	310,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	140,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0034	0.0044	0.0034	0.0042	124,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0046	0.0038	0.0044	145,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.0038	43,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	10,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,500,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	22,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	18,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	2,800,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	550,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	70,000

DISCLOSURES

EAST Asia Power Resources Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on August 27, 9 a.m. at EDSA Shangri-La Plaza Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Stockholders of record as of August 7 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

DIVERSIFIED Financial Network Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on August 28, 10 a.m. at the 3/F HatchAsia Global City Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Only stockholders of record as of July 15 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

***

THE BOARD of Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. approved the sale of its over 5.3 million Keppel IVI Investments Inc. common shares at a price to be fixed by its management.

***

EMPIRE East Land Holdings Inc. disclosed it is negotiating with Daewoo Construction Philippines Inc. for a joint venture undertaking of the development of the residential condominium project in Cainta, Rizal called "The Cambridge Village." ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

July 24, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.870701	1.000000	53.940000
Japan	Yen	0.007330	0.008419	0.454100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.400261	1.608200	86.746300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111641	0.128220	6.916200
Switzerland	Franc	0.646688	0.742721	40.062400
Canada	Dollar	0.623175	0.715717	38.605800
Singapore	Dollar	0.496126	0.569801	30.735100
Australia	Dollar	0.574303	0.659587	35.578100
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.309613	2.652590	143.080700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.232187	0.266667	14.384000
Brunei	Dollar	0.494717	0.568182	30.647700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000116	0.006300
Thailand	Baht	0.020731	0.023810	1.284300
UAE	Dirham	0.237067	0.272272	14.686400
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.148500	61.950100
Argentina	Peso	0.313766	0.360360	19.437800
Brazil	REAL	0.301176	0.345901	18.657900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134429	0.154392	8.327900
India	Rupee	0.018908	0.021716	1.171400
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.229162	0.263193	14.196600
Mexico	New Peso	0.082437	0.094679	5.107000
New Zealand	Dollar	0.505604	0.580686	31.322200
Norway	Kroner	0.119896	0.137701	7.427600
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015108	0.017352	0.936000
South Africa	Rand	0.116248	0.133511	7.201600
Korea	Won	0.000737	0.000847	0.045700
Sweden	Kroner	0.108462	0.124569	6.719300
Syria	Pound	0.020731	0.023810	1.284300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025385	0.029155	1.572600
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000546	0.000627	0.033800

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Nenaco eyes ₱600M in equity from prospective investors

By Doris C. Dumlao

NEGROS Navigation Co., the shipping unit of Metro Pacific Corp., is in talks with two potential investors to bring in at least P600 million in fresh capital and take up as much as 46 percent of its equity within the year.

In a briefing yesterday, Nenaco chief adviser to the president Seumas Gallacher said the new capital infusion being worked out was needed to sustain the shipping firm's financial turnaround.

In the first half of 2003, Nenaco chalked up P62.7 million in net profits, 19 percent better than the P52.5-million windfall a year ago. It is now on its second year of returning to profitability after years of financial losses.

Asked how Nenaco would likely fare by the year's end, he said: "We are looking at a number significantly in excess of last year's figures."

Nenaco posted P102.7 million in net profits in 2002, a reversal of the P1.8-billion loss in 2001.

The P600 million in new capital initially being sought by Nenaco, Gallacher said, should be in the form of either cash or assets such as additional cargo vessels.

Nenaco wanted to invest in hard equipment and new vessels to strengthen its business.

He said MPC, which currently owns 97.4 percent of the shipping firm, would still like to retain at least a 51-percent stake despite the entry of a new investor.

"MPC's stake should go down below 67 percent so remaining shareholdings should be between 51 and 67 percent," he said.

Gallacher said the potential investors were local companies involved in the same shipping business. However, he said Nenaco was not in talks with the existing or former shareholders of William, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc., the biggest shipping firm in the country.

Asked whether the talks could lead to a merger, he said: "If a merger comes as a mechanism that works, then we won't be adverse to that."

Nenaco, which has a fleet consisting of seven mixed-use cargo and passenger vessels and two cargo-only vessels, claims to have a 45-percent share of the Philippine passenger market and 13 percent of the cargo market.

Meanwhile, the improvement in the company's profits in the first semester was attributed to sustained reductions in certain overhead expenses as well as financing and tax charges.

Consolidated revenues for the first half stood at P1.31 billion, a slight reduction from P1.37 billion posted a year ago, due to a temporary reduction in freight capacity resulting from the holding of freighter Nuestra Señora de Fatima by the Philippine Coast Guard in Batangas early this year.

"The Fatima had been held pending resolution of a joint investigation between the PCG and Nenaco management after it was discovered that the company had been a victim of an illegal smuggling operation," a company statement said.

"At the outcome of the investigation, Nenaco was declared by the PCG and other maritime authorities to be an unknowing victim of that operation and subsequently, the Fatima was released during the second quarter of 2003 and returned to full service," it added.

Trans-Asia offers to build power plant in Panay

TRANS-ASIA Power Generation Corp., a joint venture between the Trans-Asia and Phinma groups, has offered to build a new power plant on Panay Island through the build-operate-transfer scheme, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said yesterday.

Perez told reporters at the sidelines of the Philippine Business Outlook conference hosted by the Knowledge Institute that the government was now generating renewed interest from the private sector to invest in the power sector.

"We are now seeing new entrants in the market," he said.

There is a shortage of power supply in the Visayas region, prompting the government to seek new investors in the energy sector.

During the conference yesterday, Perez noted that the looming power crisis in the Visayas was a big challenge. The crisis is expected to peak by December this year.

Other firms which had earlier expressed interest to put up power facilities in the region were Alstom, Artech and Power One. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Worldcom softens stance on dispute with RP carriers

By Abigail L. Ho

AMERICAN carrier MCI Worldcom Inc. has offered compromise termination rates to local carriers, a possible prelude to the settlement of the termination rates row that began early this year.

An industry source disclosed that when representatives of MCI Worldcom met with local telecommunications firms a week ago, they offered rates higher than what they were initially willing to pay their Philippine counterparts.

"MCI Worldcom was willing to increase the rates. It offered 10.5 US cents for landlines and 14 US cents for cellular," the source said.

But he stressed that local carriers were not likely to back down and give the American carriers special rates when most foreign carriers have already agreed to the higher rates imposed by local firms starting Feb. 1.

On that day, local carriers raised termination rates from 8 US cents to 12 US cents for landlines and from 12 US cents to 16 US cents for cellular.

Termination rates are what a telecom firm pays another carrier to which its subscriber's call is terminated or completed.

While most foreign carriers have agreed to the new rates after negotiations, Worldcom and another American firm, AT&T Corp., refused to accept the new rates.

The two American carriers then filed a case against the Philippine carriers with the International Bureau of the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

AT&T and Worldcom accused local carriers of whipsawing, or pitting US carriers against each other to get better deals.

FCC International Bureau chief Donald Abelson ruled in favor of the US carriers and effectively suspended payments from all US carriers to their Philippine partners.

The bureau has yet to issue a final decision on the case, even after Philippine carriers had submitted their motions and responses months ago.

The National Telecommunications Commission said the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Trade and Industry have both been asking how the impasse could be resolved.

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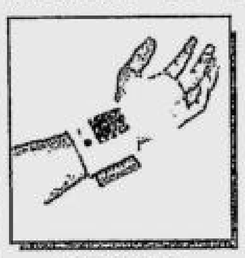

WEAK PESO, PROFIT-TAKING

Stock prices down 1.02%

SHARES closed lower in light trade yesterday as concerns over the weak peso weighed on market sentiment and led to profit taking in key blue chip firms such as Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

A continued slide in the peso, which central bank officials attribute to seasonal demand and regional weakness, would put pressure on local interest rates and corporate earnings performance.

But traders said the market's appetite for equity investments remained healthy, with investors just waiting for the index to touch certain levels before returning to accumulate more stocks.

The Philippine stock index lost 1.02 percent or 13.22 points at 1,285.37 points, but the market was still up 26.21 percent so far this year.

The peso touched a fresh four-month low of 54.23 to the dollar in morning trade yesterday against its close of P54.025 the previous day.

"Overall, the outlook for the market continues to be upbeat," said Jose Vistan, analyst at AB Capital Securities Inc.

"There may be some consolidation at 1,280 to the 1,300 range, but buying support should come in at the 1,280 mark."

Value turnover narrowed to P439.48 million versus P633.57 million on Wednesday. Losers outpaced gainers 43 to 30, and 47 issues were unchanged.

Dominant phone firm PLDT edged down 1.8 percent or P10 to close at P545 as the market took its cue from the 1.64 percent fall in its American Depositary Receipts traded in New York.

Top property firm Ayala Land Inc. lost 2.9 percent or 20 centavos to end at P6.70 as worries about the peso's slide and its impact on interest rates, and consequently on property investments, fueled profit taking in the stock.

Globe Telecom, the country's second largest phone firm, slid 2.8 percent or P20 to end at P695 after some brokerage houses downgraded their recommendation on the stock to neutral from buy when the stock's valuation became too pricey. Globe has surged 55.3 percent so far this year at yesterday's close. *Reuters*

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George Ty eyes 40% of power sector

From page B1

in 2005), the Panay Transmission Backbone project (2005), Negros-Panay Interconnection uprating (2006-2007), and Negros-Cebu interconnection.

But Perez said the most immediate solution to averting a power crisis was still new investments in power generation and transmission facilities in the power-short areas, which was why Ty's interest in power generation was embraced by the DOE.

In the Malacañang briefing, he said: "Power reform is a work in progress and we're only two years in the system. The oil deregulation is already five years old and we have seen competitive prices in oil. Let us be patient and let the power reforms take place."

INTEREST RATES

July 24, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 24-Jul-03	MART1 23-Jul-03
1 Month	6.26	6.2304
3 Months	6.2536	6.2143
6 Months	6.7617	6.721
1 Year	7.2982	7.2038
2 Years	8.68	8.6567
3 Years	9.465	9.335
4 Years	9.9067	9.8
5 Years	10.125	10.0231
7 Years	10.9667	10.9333
10 Years	11.3383	11.2723
20 Years	11.95	11.9342
25 Years	12.3033	12.2833

SOURCE: MART-BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 24, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	21.000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19.25	19.25	19	19	7.900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48.5	49	48	48.5	910.800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc	34	34	33.5	34	48.900
First E-Bank Corp	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50.000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	31	31.5	679.100
Philippine National Bank	27	27	26.5	27	95.300
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	64.300
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	22.5	22.25	22.5	94.500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	20.000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3	3	3	3	6.000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1500	1520	1500	1520	950
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc	1.3	1.34	1.28	1.34	1.109.000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1100	1110	1000	1110	5.490
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	21.5	21	21	13.400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.71	3.160.000
Globe Telecom Inc	715	715	690	695	23.210
Ipeople Inc	0.94	0.95	0.93	0.95	400.000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.055	0.055	3.800.000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.033	13.000.000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	110.000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.58	0.61	8.110.000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	100.000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co	555	555	530	545	132.030
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	5.700.000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.25	12.5	12	12.25	216.900
Manila Electric Co. B	18.25	18.25	17.75	18.25	1.144.000
Petron Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.12	2.551.000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	366.000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	400.000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50.000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50.000
Negros Navigation Co Inc	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	70.000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	410.000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	100.000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	162.000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	24.800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17	109.600
RFM Corp	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50.000
San Miguel Corp. A	53	53	52.5	53	22.900
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62	62	62	99.000
Universal Robina Corp	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.9	818.000
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	30.000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	60.000
Ayala Corp	4.95	4.95	4.85	4.9	1.000.000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	235.000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc	0.039	0.041	0.038	0.04	8.100.000
A. Soriano Corp	0.75	0.77	0.75	0.77	260.000
APC Group Inc	0.09	0.105	0.09	0.105	2.800.000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	64.000.000
Anglo Phil Holdings Cor	0.17	0.2	0.16	0.2	700.000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.9	1.84	1.88	101.000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	30.000
Benpres Holdings Corp	0.79	0.79	0.73	0.78	43.830.000
Basic Consolidated Inc	0.15	0.15	0.13	0.15	750.000
Crown Equities Inc	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.000.000
Southeast Asian Cemen	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	500.000
DMCI Holdings Inc	0.28	0.3	0.27	0.3	5.630.000
Filinvest Dev. Corp	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	400.000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	16.25	16.5	16	16.25	903.600
Forum Pacific Inc	0.2	0.24	0.2	0.23	1.750.000
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.12	0.14	3.680.000
House Of Investments I	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	10.000
Ionics Inc.	1.6	1.76	1.52	1.74	2.117.000
J.G. Summit Holdings I	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	2.440.000
Megaworld Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	2.370.000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20.000
Metro Pacific Corp	0.32	0.34	0.31	0.34	17.450.000
Music Corp	0.43	0.44	0.41	0.44	1.890.000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	40.000
East Asia Power Res. C	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100.000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	158.000
Solid Group In	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	200.000
Waterfront Phi	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10.000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies In	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	1.000
Picop Resources	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	1.300.000
SPI Technologies	16.75	17	16.75	16.75	110.300
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	3.460.000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10.000
Leisure & Resorts Corp	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	490.000
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Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	140.000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0034	0.0044	0.0034	0.0042	124.000.000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0046	0.0038	0.0044	145.000.000
Omico Corp	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.0038	43.000.000
Polar Mines & Dev. Corp	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	5.000.000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300.000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	10.000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1.500.000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	2.000.000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	22.000.000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	18.000.000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10.000
Sinophil Corp	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	2.800.000
South China Res	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	550.000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	70.000

DISCLOSURES

EAST Asia Power Resources Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on August 27, 9 a.m. at EDSA Shangri-La Plaza Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Stockholders of record as of August 7 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

DIVERSIFIED Financial Network Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on August 28, 10 a.m. at the 3/F HatchAsia Global City Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Only stockholders of record as of July 15 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

THE BOARD of Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. approved the sale of its over 5.3 million Keppel IVI Investments Inc. common shares at a price to be fixed by its management.

EMPIRE East Land Holdings Inc. disclosed it is negotiating with Daewoo Construction Philippines Inc. for a joint venture undertaking of the development of the residential condominium project in Cainta, Rizal called "The Cambridge Village." ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

July 24, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.870701	1.000000	53.940000
Japan	Yen	0.007330	0.008419	0.454100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.400261	1.608200	86.746300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111641	0.128220	6.916200
Switzerland	Franc	0.646688	0.742721	40.062400
Canada	Dollar	0.623175	0.715717	38.605800
Singapore	Dollar	0.496126	0.569801	30.735100
Australia	Dollar	0.574303	0.659587	35.578100
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.309613	2.652590	143.080700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.232187	0.266667	14.384000
Brunei	Dollar	0.494717	0.568182	30.647700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000116	0.006300
Thailand	Baht	0.020731	0.023810	1.284300
UAE	Dirham	0.237067	0.272272	14.686400
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.148500	61.950100
Argentina	Peso	0.313766	0.360360	19.437800
Brazil	REAL	0.301176	0.345901	18.657900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134429	0.154392	8.327900
India	Rupee	0.018908	0.021716	1.171400
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.229162	0.263193	14.196600
Mexico	New Peso	0.082437	0.094679	5.107000
New Zealand	Dollar	0.505604	0.580686	31.322200
Norway	Kroner	0.119896	0.137701	7.427600
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015108	0.017352	0.936000
South Africa	Rand	0.116248	0.133511	7.201600
Korea	Won	0.000737	0.000847	0.045700
Sweden	Kroner	0.108462	0.124569	6.719300
Syria	Pound	0.020731	0.023810	1.284300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025385	0.029155	1.572600
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000546	0.000627	0.033800

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Transco allots ₱600M for pole replacement

By Ronnel w. Domingo

STATE-RUN National Transmission Corp. (Transco) said it has earmarked P600 million to replace some 20,000 wood poles with steel poles over the next 10 years.

Transco chief operating officer Rex F. Corpuz said in a statement the pole replacement program was part of the firm's zero-outage efforts, which seeks to minimize incidences of power outages.

Corpuz said the program was being implemented as Transco's wood poles were already aging, especially those that carry 69-kilovolt lines.

The official said the company was replacing about 2,000 poles within this year and that it was in the process of completing the evaluation of bids for the supply.

He said the pole replacement program was just one of many measures that Transco was implementing to strengthen its network's reliability, including the establishment of the $80-million (about P4.2 billion) National Control Center that was completed in June.

TRANSCO/ B5

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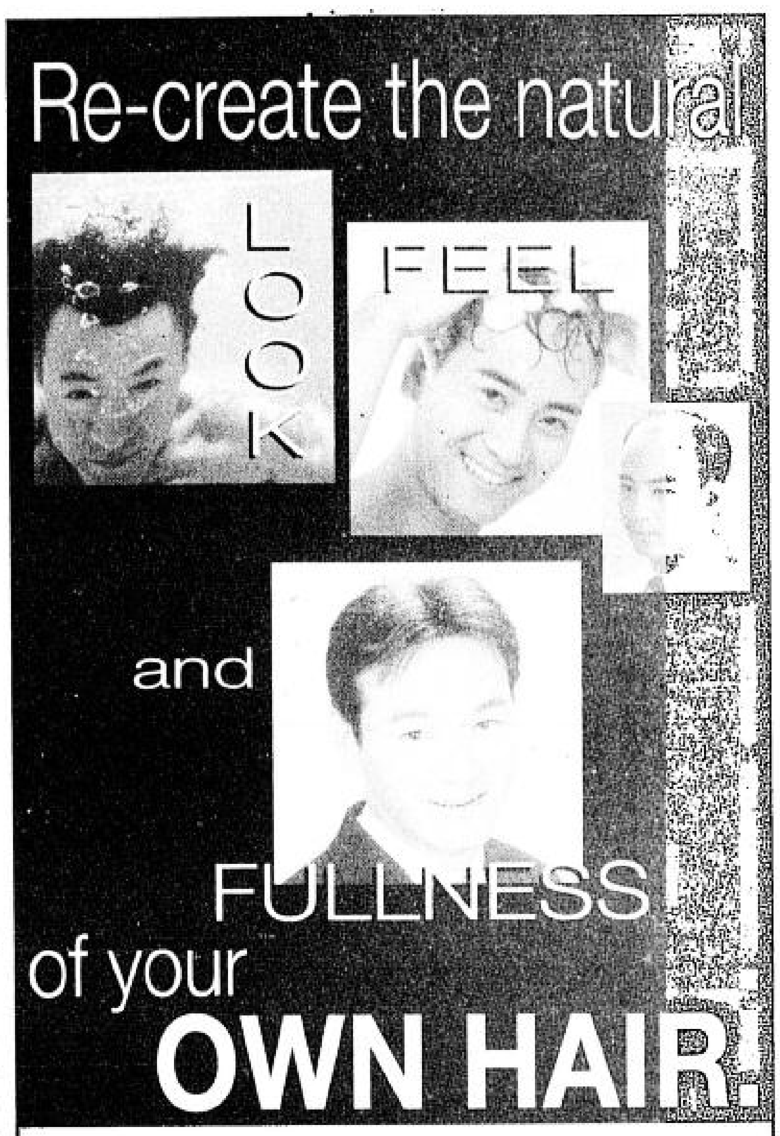

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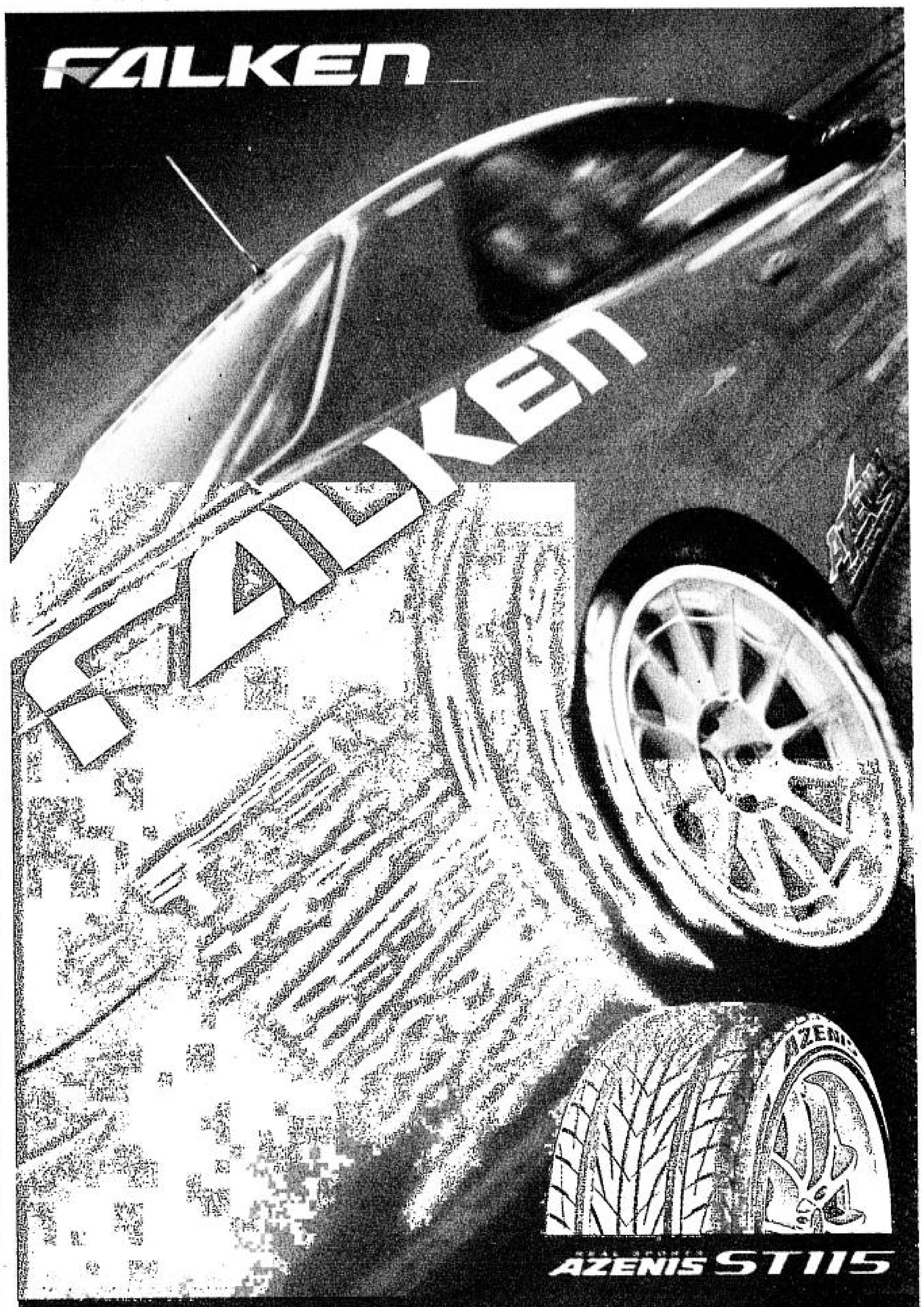

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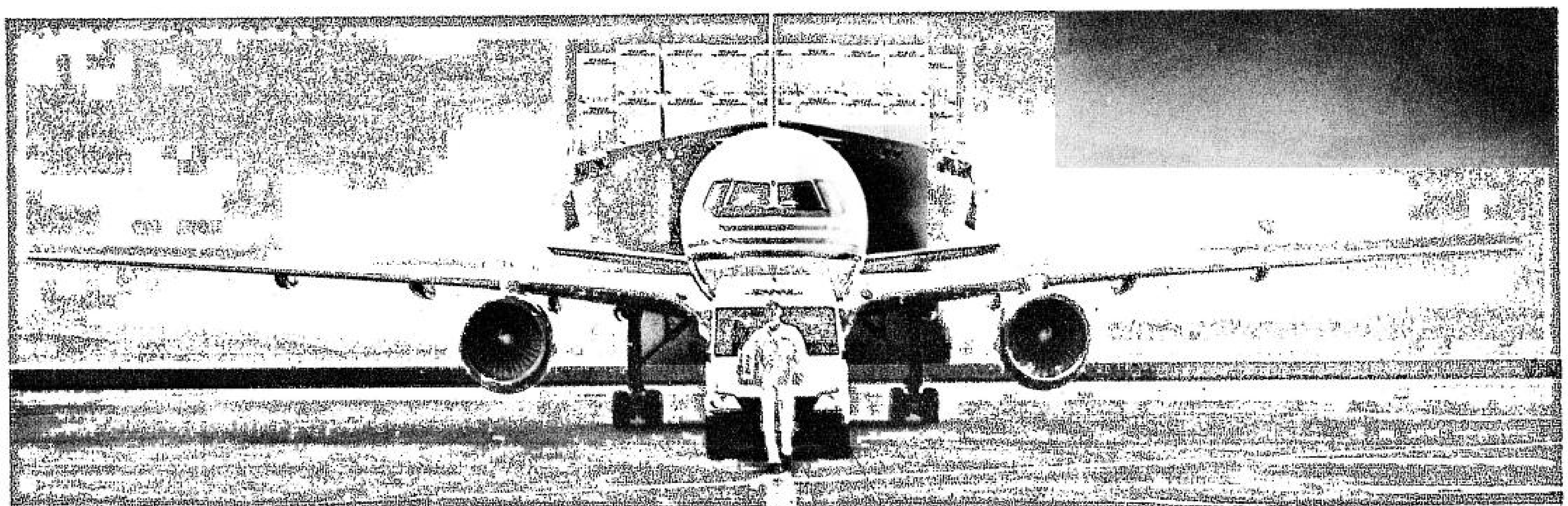

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R.I. District 3830, Philippines

Lend a Hand

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Messages

MY sincere best wishes to all of you and congratulations to all the Club's Officers as they are installed for this new Rotary year 2003-2004.

As the Rotary leaders for this year, you are also very important members of the Family of Rotary, a unique group that encompasses not only our 1.2 million members but also their spouses and other family members who provide such critically important support to Rotary's service efforts. It is in our Rotarian nature to offer help wherever it is needed, and in 2003-04, I will ask Rotarians to actively seek out even more opportunities to Lend A Hand.

This will be an exciting year for all of Rotary, the final year of our first century of humanitarian service. It will be a time when the intelligence, compassion, and leadership abilities of all Rotary officers will be fully employed in advancing Rotary's mission throughout the world.

Let us begin the 2003-04 Rotary year with our hands outstretched, ready to help our brothers and sisters in need. Working together, there is no limit to what the helping hands of Rotary can accomplish.

Kind regards,
Jonathan B. Majiyagbe (*Sgd.*)
President, Rotary International

I CONVEY my warmest congratulations to the incoming officers and directors of the Rotary Club of Makati Dasmariñas in RY 2003-2004 on the occasion of their Turnover and Induction ceremonies on 25 July 2003.

Club inductions have deeper meaning with far-reaching consequences than we would like to believe. Leaders are the keys to the success of the organization. Public affirmation of trust and confidence in them is a basic element that helps create the basis for commitment and ignite in them the fire of leadership.

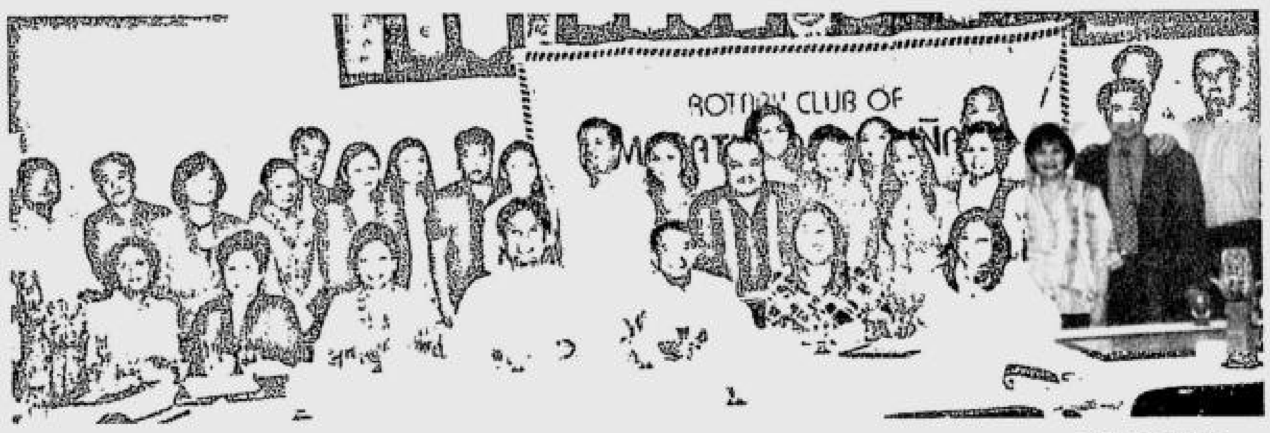
In fulfilling this purpose, we find the ideal venue and atmosphere in club inductions. It provides the perfect occasion for the exchange between public trust and confidence and acceptance of a leaders' mandate. It is where we witness how a leader draws the line of responsibility and acknowledges the significance of leadership in an organization. It is where we witness a leader draw the line between mediocrity and excellence.

This year's R.I. theme, "Lend A Hand" guides our club leaders and members to be conscious of the many opportunities for service and to apply the appropriate courses of action to make their plans come into fruition.

The Rotary Club of Makati Dasmariñas has a fine tradition of excellence in service and I am confident that with the leadership of incoming President Juor Buted and his Star Team, they will have another sterling year of service. For after all, I can see in them the dedication and commitment to pursue Rotary service with relentless zeal.

With my warmest regards.
JOSE L. CORTES, JR. (*Sgd.*)
Governor, RY 2003-2004
District 3830, Philippines

It all started with a vision



THE DISTRICT Governor of Rotary Year 1994-1995, Romy del Rosario put the thrust in club strengthening. The vision was to form a club that will be an example of service to the people. The time had come, and the first organizational meeting of the Rotary Club of Dasmariñas with its core of 20 members was held at the New World Hotel. The club was officially chartered as the 80th Club in District 3810 on Dec. 14, 1994 with Rebecca "Becky" Singson as Charter President. RCMD membership meteorically rose through the years, peaking with 72 eager and enthusiastic professionals, businessmen and top executives.

RCMD has the distinction of being one of the strongest and multi-awarded clubs from District 3810 from where it finds its roots and District 3830 where it now belongs. With its motto, "Soaring Above Oneself" the club has incessantly and relentlessly undertaken projects encompassing all the avenues of service.

The Club has been proudly spearheading community projects, such as its Feeding Program for children and Deep Well Rehabilitation (Drink to the Brink) for impoverished constituents of Barangay Moonwalk, Parañaque; Bigay-buhay Cooperative under which persons with disabilities are given the opportunity of dignifying themselves through skillful occupation in cottage industries; and Dengue eradication programs through the 4H Grant in cooperation with Rotary International District 3810 and 3830. Other service projects include the annual medical-dental missions to depressed areas and similar support missions to indigenous groups such as the Aetas of Botolan, Zambales, the Mangyans or Mamburao, Mindoro and the Dumagats of the Sierra Madre Mountains. RCMD presence can be felt as far as Davao, where it assisted in literally bridging the distance through the construction of a 3-ton, 80-meter suspension bridge at Gumitan, Marilog District.

Knowing fully well that children are the source of inspiration and joy, RCMD has reciprocated by perennially bringing fun, laughter and delight to the orphaned children of White Cross and Mother Theresa orphanages. Its annual Pedyakamp brings together around 207 special children, street kids and abused children coming from 14 different institutions for a day of fun and sports activities. RCMD also continues to undertake feeding programs for the undernourished, among them students of San Agustin Elementary School in Parañaque, San Simon Elementary School in Pampanga, Bagbag National High School at Cavite and in depressed communities of Bel-Air. In addition to children, RCMD has lent support to the welfare and rights of women through centers for abused women such as Haven and Marilac.

RCMD's mission of guiding and enlightening the youth is shown in its Youth Peace Camp, "Firestorm", a solemn assembly of over 12,500 youths from Metro Manila, Baguio, Tanauan and Leyte. "Lights, Kamera, Iwas Droga" was similarly geared for the youths aimed towards spiritual fervor through campaign against illegal drugs.

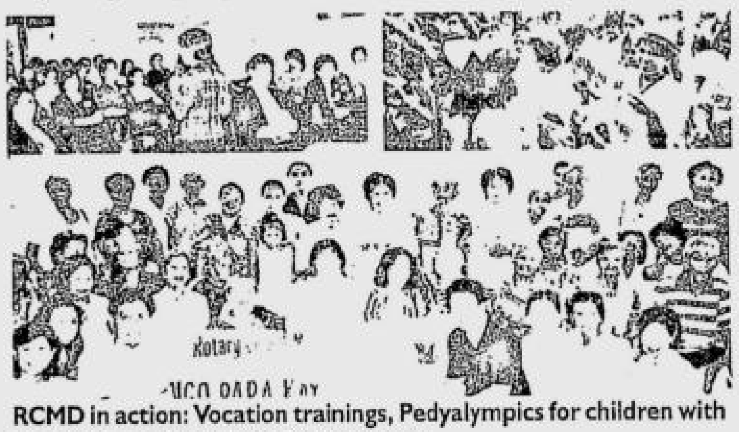
RCMD has sponsored a multitude of opportunities for each member to represent the dignity and utility of one's vocation. Among its significant projects in the area of vocational service are its annual Search for Outstanding Teacher in Makati City, computer and information technology seminars, Turo Ko, Turo Mo Tungo sa Kaunlaran—a program which teaches trainers at workshops in University of Immaculate Conception, Davao City.

Among RCMD's partners in service are Rotaract, Interact Clubs and Rotary Community Corps. The college level students are members of the Eastern Univeristy and the Philippine Christian University. The high school students on the other hand are the Interact Clubs of International School Manila and Assumption. The community corps are based in Parañaque, Pampanga, Rosario Cavite.

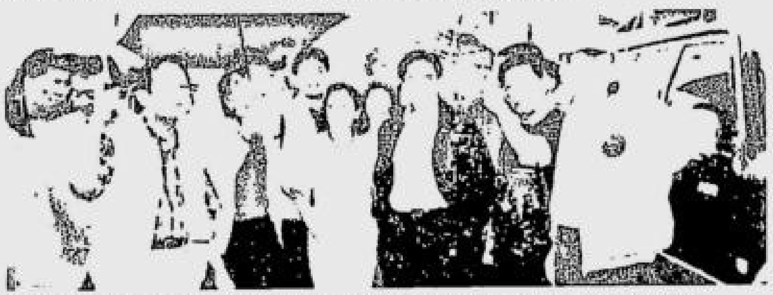
In its objective to advance international understanding, goodwill and peace. It is proud to have forged sister club agreements with the Rotary Clubs of Pantai Valley (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), Seoul-Hangang (Korea), San Bernardino (USA), Bangkok Suwanabhum (Thailand), and Bombay Queens (India). Among its local counterparts are the Rotary Clubs of San Pedro South (Laguna), Rosario (Cavite), Barasoain (Bulacan), Tiaong (Quezon) and Rizal West (Makati).

The Rotary Club of Makati Dasmariñas has reaped accolades through the years, the latest recognition having been issued under the able leadership of Immediate Past President Faustino "Jun" Turla, Jr. where it garnered 10 awards, including Most Outstanding Club and Club President.

The biggest reward, of course, is the thought that more and more Filipinos benefit from the enthusiastic services RCMD members have been giving. That is probably why the Club receive utmost success in every undertaking. After all, to quote Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nothing great is ever achieved without enthusiasm".



RCMD in action: Vocation trainings, Pedyalympics for children with disabilities and activities for the elderly



RCMD Dengue Eradication Program with DOH Secretary Dayrit

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ABUHAY

Formation of Rotary Community Corp. San Simon, Pampanga

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Ma. Jocelyn "Joji" L. Tan
Vice-President/Pres. Elect

Celine R. Madamba
Secretary

Elisa "Dada" M. Cua
Treasurer

Luz "Lulu" Virata-Jorge
District Liaison Officer

Bettina "Tina" Olmedo
Public Relations Officer

Tommy Mañalac
Sergeant-at-Arms

Aurora "Au" Hilario
Club Service A

Fernando "JR" Contreras
Club Service B

Ma. Jocelyn "Joji" L. Tan
Club Service C

Gilda Catalina Lim
Community Service A

Evelyn Del Rosario
Vocational Service

Bullet Todiño
Youth Service

Winston Yang
International Service

Benjamin "Ben" Maynigo
Special Projects

IPP Faustino "Jun" Turla
Ex-Officio Member

BOARD OF ADVISERS

CP Rebecca Singson
PP Perry Noble
PP Carmelita Palma
PP Ricardo Dizon
PP Rhodora Salas
PP Patricia Lontoc
PP Emmanuel Luis Panganiban

FOR the Rotarian, the road of service has many stops along the way. After one has fulfilled a mission to improve the life of one in need, another want springs forth, waiting to be addressed. And this is why service is a journey, and not a destination; a continuing avenue for one to Lend a Hand.

The responsibilities of a Rotary President can be overwhelming. I however take comfort in the thought that my members know no pause, always ready and eager to walk through all the avenues of service no matter how many times they have been called upon to share their time, talent and treasure. In its barely nine years of existence, the Rotary Club of Makati Dasmariñas has earned the distinction of being one of District 3830's strong clubs. This strength comes from the character of its members, constantly fortified by fellowship and nurtured by the commitment to the objectives for which the Rotary movement was organized.

On the eve of Rotary International's Centennial, my club reiterates its commitment to the ideals of service with the vision that every member of the Rotary Club of Makati Dasmariñas will "Soar Above Oneself".

JUAN ORENDAIN P. BUTED (*Sgd.*)
President
RY 2003-2004
Rotary Club of Makati Dasmariñas

RCMD INDUCTION CEREMONIES

Universal Leisure Club, 4th Floor, Equitable PCIB Tower
Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
July 25, 2003

PROGRAM
I. Call to Order - President Faustino Turla, Jr.
II. Invocation - Past President Luis Panganiban
III. National Anthem
IV. Introduction of Dignitaries & Guests - Charter Pres. Rebecca Singson
V. Valedictory Address - President Faustino Turla, Jr.
VI. Introduction of Incoming Star President - Past President Perry Noble
VII. Induction of Pres- Elect Juor Buted - Gov. Jose L. Cortes, Jr.
VIII. Inaugural Address - President Juor Buted
IX. Intermission Number
X. Introduction of the Governor - Past President Rhoda Salas
XI. Message of the Governor - Gov. Jose L. Cortes, Jr.
XII. Introduction of Incoming Officers and Directors - PP Patricia Lontoc
XIII. Charging of Incoming Officers and Directors - PDG Ernesto Salas
XIV. Induction of Incoming Officers and Directors - Gov. Jose L. Cortes, Jr.
XV. Introduction of New Member - President-Elect Jocelyn Tan
XVI. Charging of New Member - Past President Ricardo Dizon
XVII. Induction of New Member - President Juor Buted
XVIII. Club Song (Touch Another Soul)
XIX. Production Number - RCMD Officers and Members
XX. Adjournment
XXI. Raffle Draw & Dancing

Rtn. Manni Coloma
Voice Over

Special Thanks to

PETER CHUA

- Rhoda Salas
- Atty. Gilda Lim
- Aloysius G. Pacia
- Atty. Wilfredo Garrido, Jr.
- Dra. Joji Tan
- Atty. Joel Raymond R. Ayson
- Atty. Danilo Concepcion
- Winston & Jenny Yang
- Anonymous
- Babs Mahtani
- Dr. Perry Noble
- Atty. Mari Trinidad P. Villareal
- Atty. Geraldine Gumtang
- Atty. Teodoro Bonifacio, Jr.
- Ramoncito Lometillo
- Atty. Ariel H. Magno
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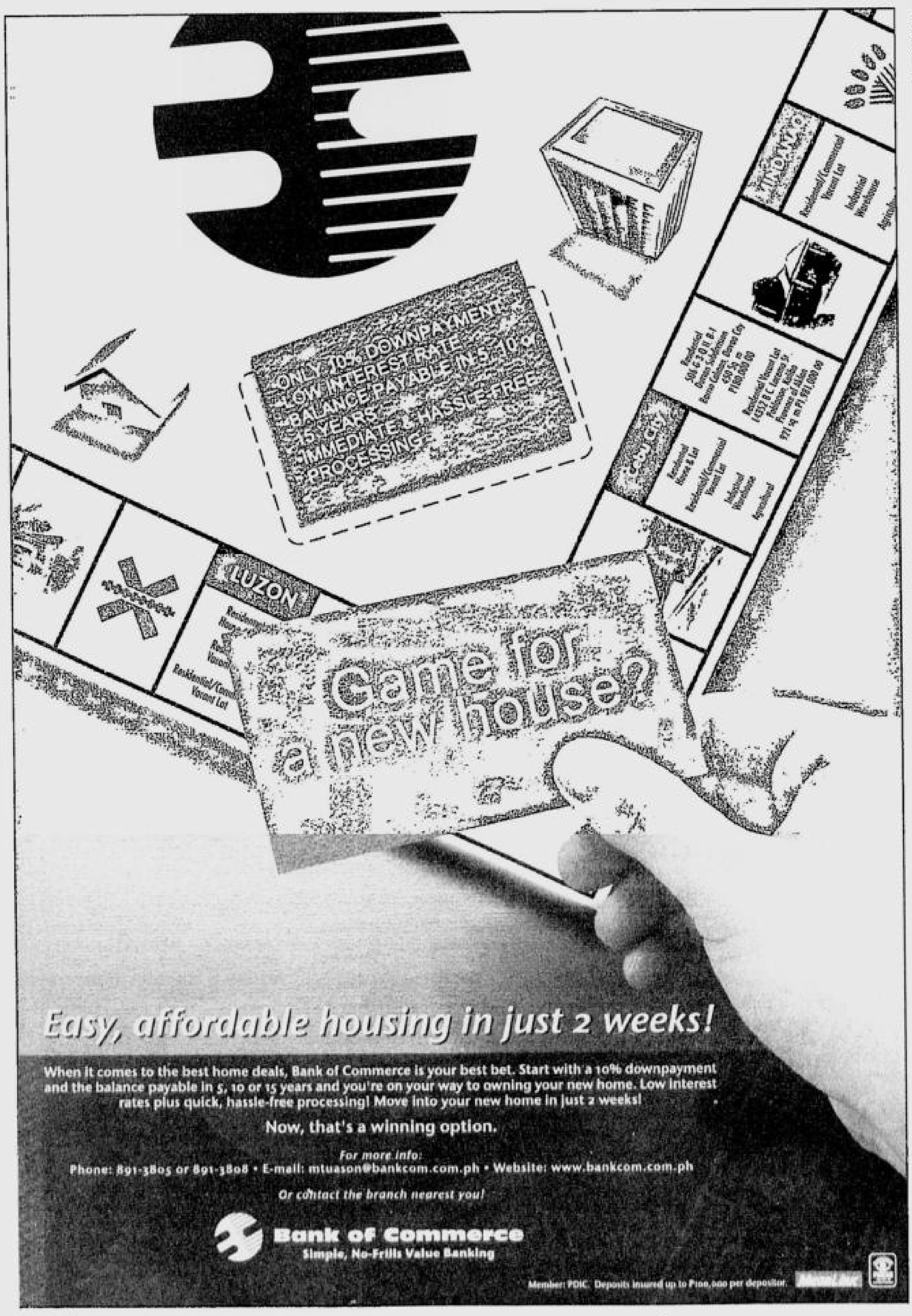
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BIR expects ₱4B in add'l revenues from 'sin' products

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue expects to generate nearly P4 billion in additional revenues annually from its ongoing move to update the excise tax payments of cigarettes and alcohol products.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said BIR expected to generate P1.8 billion in additional revenues from cigarettes and close to P2 billion from alcohol products with the imposition of higher excise taxes arising from the elevation of new brands to higher tax brackets.

Parayno said the BIR was aiming to implement the reclassification of new cigarette and alcohol brands by next month because it was counting on this measure to boost its revenues this year.

He said the biggest reason for the plunge in the BIR's collection efforts over the last 5 years—from 12.95 percent in 1997 to 9.93 percent last year—was the BIR's inability to adjust the tax collection to the rise in inflation.

Taxes on sin products sold before the implementation of the 1997 Comprehensive Tax Reform Program were fixed while the excise tax on new brands sold thereafter should be adjusted to inflation (through a survey on their retail prices in supermarkets nationwide) three months after their introduction. It was only this year that the BIR conducted its first survey.

Parayno said the BIR had met tough resistance against "sin" product makers specifically La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Co., which filed a case to stop the agency from reclassifying its Astro and Memphis brands. La Suerte accounted for the bulk of the estimated P3 billion in back taxes from the sale of Astro and Memphis at low tax rates.

The BIR is seeking to bring up-to-date the taxes on liquor and cigarette brands that were introduced after 1997 when the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program took effect. A BIR survey showed that 11 of 30 new cigarette brands and variants introduced during the last five years should be placed in a higher price bracket and pay higher taxes.

These brands are Astro and Memphis of La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Co., Lucky Strike and Capri Slims of British American Tobacco, Pentagon Associated of Anglo-American Tobacco, and Mighty of Mighty Corp. These firms were given 15 days (raised from seven) to submit their comments on the BIR's findings. The BIR estimated that the back taxes from these brands amount to more P3 billion, the bulk of which were accounted for by La Suerte.

Parayno earlier told the INQUIRER that the agency has yet to decide whether to apply the new tax classification on cigarettes and liquor only on future sales or to collect on the back taxes from the date of introduction.

Metrobank says NPLs at 15.02%

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's biggest lender, said yesterday bad loans at its parent bank reached 15.02 percent of its total loan portfolio as of June 19.

The figure was slightly above the bad loan ratio of 14.98 percent as of March 26 for the bank's head office and branches.

But Metrobank's bad loans were lower than the most recent industry non-performing loan (NPL) average of 15.52 percent of total loans as of end-April.

Metrobank said in a published statement of condition yesterday that its parent bank's non-performing loans amounted to P31.11 billion as of June 19, about twice that of Bank of the Philippine Islands' (BPI) P15.04 billion in the same period. *Reuters*

Transco ...

From page B3

"We cannot totally eliminate occurrences of outages or even a region-wide blackout but, with our programs, we can increase the level of confidence of people and investors in the transmission business," Corpuz said.

He pointed out that there had not been any Luzon-wide power outage in the last 14 months. The island twice suffered a blackout in 2002—once in January and another in May.

In a telephone interview last Tuesday, Transco senior department manager for Visayas Jules Alcantara said provinces in the region suffered outages especially during typhoons because of damages to wood poles.

For instance, Alcantara said typhoons Gilas and Harurot badly battered power systems in Eastern Samar.

"Restoration of a damaged wood pole usually takes only several hours, but we usually have repetitive problems, during storms," he said. "Once we fix one problem, another one arises."

On the other hand, he said high-load transmission lines were safe from the onslaught of bad weather as these were secured with the "robot-looking steel towers" most of people were familiar with.

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From page B2

"The DFA asked us what our position was and what the possible solutions were. The DTI was also interested because this might not be taken as just a single issue but tied up with many other things," NTC chief Armi Jane Borje said in an interview.

The upcoming state visit of US President George W. Bush in October is also being taken into consideration in finding a solution to the impasse.

"But it has to be mutual. Both (the Philippines and the US) are sovereign in their own jurisdictions," Borje explained.

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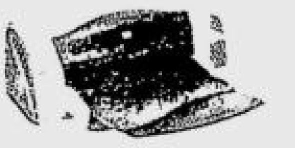

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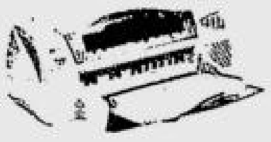

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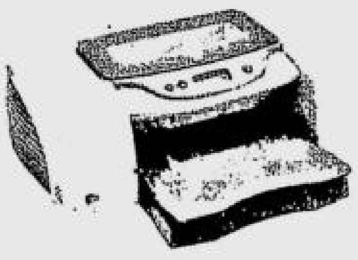

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Alpha Salcedo 12T PTamo Twr 9T Studio FF 8071268

MANDALUYONG

2BR WACK² 20T 0918-9420180

PARANAQUE

P 4T 2T DP AIRPRT A/C cable Furn P750/day. 430 1/2 Day 5132996-98

PASIG

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APARTMENT

MAKATI

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. Persons must pray this 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this soon as your favor has been granted. Thank you Holy Spirit for granting my petition. - JYT

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the heirs of MERCY B. CATUBIG executed a deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate with waiver of rights duly acknowledged before notary public Patricia Marie De Guzman in Makati City Phils. as Doc 109, Page 22, Book II, Series of 2003 (PDI-July 18,25&Aug.1 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the properties left by the late ALICIA GARCIA SAN PEDRO, consisting of Fourteen (14) parcels of land (residential land/unirrigated /irrigated/cornland) and capital in Calasiao Ice Plant which includes Two (2) adjoining lots and machineries; situated at Tondo and Gapan, Manila; Novaliches, Quezon City; Dagupan City, Manaoag and Calasiao, Pangasinan, covered under TCT Nos. 167606, 161670,161671, 67951, 90582, 90579, RT-109866, 62812, TD Nos. 10570, 14875, 20053, 03998, 04075 & 04076, OCT Nos. P-28590 and 23192, TD Nos. 110, 110-A, 15355, 15356 and 21068, respectively, are the subject of extrajudicial settlement by and among the heirs namely: Vicente R. San Pedro, Jr., Melinda Capulong, Myrna Tumiboy, Maria Araneta, Marivic Andres, Marissa Santos, Miriam and Vicent both surnamed San Pedro as per Doc. No. 240, Page No. 49, Book No. I, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Mariano Daolin of Q.C. (PDI-July 11,18,25,2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MANUEL P. de Leon Located at Punta Sta Ana Mla. has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc 139, Page 29, Book 13, Series of 2003 by Notary Public Hilarion T. Omadto Jr. for City of Mandaluyong (PDI-July 10, 18, & 25 2003)

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GREG 0919-697-6878 / 714-7038 / 714-6610

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public of the loss of the Republic of the Philippines Official Receipt Nos. 5687118 to 5687150 allotted to PALAWAN STATE UNIVERSITY with main campus at TINIGUIBAN PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PALAWAN, Tel. Nos. 433-2379.

The Heads of all government agencies and all others concerned are also warned against accepting and/or using any official receipt bearing the above-mentioned serial numbers. Any transaction made by any person or government agency using any of the above receipts are deemed void.

(Sgd.) TERESITA L. SALVA
University President

(PDI – July 25, 26 & 27, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development – NCR
DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Tala, Caloocan City

July 24, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital invites responsible and duly accredited suppliers from DOH/CHD-NCR to pre-qualify and bid for the supply of the following items:

A. DRUGS AND MEDICINES
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C. LABORATORY SUPPLIES
D. JANITORIAL SUPPLIES
E. GROCERY PRODUCTS
F. POULTRY AND EGGS
G. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
H. FISH AND OTHER SEAFOODS
I. BAKERY PRODUCTS

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Issuance of Bid Documents:	August 4-15, 2003 (8:00 am-12:00 pm)
Pre-Bid Conference:	
Items A,B,C, & D	August 15, 2003 (9:30 am)
Items E,F,G,H & I	August 15, 2003 (1:30 pm)
Submission and Opening of Bids:	
Items A,B,C, & D	August 25, 2003 (1:30 pm)
Items E,F,G,H, & I	August 26, 2003 (1:30 pm)

Prospective bidders may secure bid proposal forms from the BAC Secretary, Administrative Office, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of (P300.00) THREE HUNDRED PESOS.

All activities shall be held at the Training Room, Dr. Jose N Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, Tala, Caloocan City, unless announced otherwise.

Each bid must accompanied by a bidder's bond in the form of a certified check, manager's check, or GSIS Bond in an amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

The Approved Budget Cost is stated on the bid tender documents.

For further inquiries, interested bidders may contact the BAC Secretary or call telephone no. 962-9886.

DR. JNRMH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to notice of award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidders of the grounds for the hospital's action.

(Sgd.) CECILIA A. GARGUEÑA, M.D.
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–July 25 & Aug. 1, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late AMADA M. PORTUGAL was adjudicated to DINO JOSEPH M. MACALINO per Doc. 116, Page 22, Book 1 Series of 2003 before Notary Public J.M. Miranda of City of San Fernando, Pampanga.
(PDI-July 25, 31 & Aug. 7, 2003)

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RP eyes new electronics markets in China

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT has set its sights on Northeast China as a new market for the country's electronics exports, following announcements from the Chinese government that it would expand its information technology and high-tech manufacturing investments in the area.

The Philippine delegation sent to the recently concluded 5th Asia-Europe Economic Ministers Meeting and the High Level Economic Forum, led by Trade Undersecretary Thomas Aquino, reported that there were untapped trade opportunities in the province of Liaoning and the cities of Shenyang and Dalian.

According to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, the government would immediately take advantage of the newfound markets in China to boost export revenue from the country's leading export product—electronics—which has suffered from lower global demand since early this year.

The drop in the country's export revenue from electronics, which account for about 60 percent of the country's total export bill, pulled down its external trade performance. Revenue from electronics export dropped 12.8 percent in May to $1.796 billion from $2.06 billion in the same period last year.

The decline in revenue from electronics export was attributed mainly to the sluggish demand and volatile foreign markets due to the recent US-Iraq war and the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak.

"This (China's investments in IT) is a window of opportunity for our electronic parts and software development services because we can further strengthen our international competitiveness and explore new markets," Roxas said in a statement.

Aside from electronics, Roxas said the country was also targeting to export other products to Northeast China such as sporting goods, apparel, furniture and construction services.

He said the City of Dalian was a promising market for the country's apparel and sporting goods because of its annual celebration of the International Fashion Festival and because it is the home of the Dalina Shide, China's top football team.

Roxas said the province of Liaoning was also reported to be expanding its residential construction activities. "The booming infrastructure activities in the province also augurs well for our construction services sector," Roxas said.

Gokongwei-owned hotel guns for bigger chunk of market

By Corrie S. Narisma

HOLIDAY Inn Galleria Manila, formerly Manila Galleria Suites, aims to grab the hotel market leadership in the Ortigas area with its recent rebranding and ongoing refurbishing efforts.

Hotel general manager Bill Vincent said that the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila was gunning for the No. 1 position from No. 3, with its occupancy rate seen rising by 10 percentage points from year-to-date level of 65 percent.

The re-branding of the Gokongwei-owned hotel forms part of its membership in the InterContinental Hotels Group, which now manages the hotel. It was renamed after Holiday Inn, IHG's mid-scale full-service brand operating in more than 100 countries worldwide, with 84 hotels in the Asia-Pacific region.

IHG manages two other hotels in the country—Hotel InterContinental Manila and Holiday Inn Clark.

"It has always been a good product and with an internationally known brand, there is no reason for it not to achieve this objective," Vincent said.

The 30-story Holiday Inn Galleria has 289 guest rooms, banquet facilities, a business center, dining facilities and various recreational facilities.

A distinct advantage is its direct access to Robinsons Galleria Mall, which houses more than 400 shops, restaurants, cinema and an in-house theme park. The hotel caters to business travelers and foreign and domestic tourists.

At present, 65 percent of its guests are domestic tourists and 35 percent are foreign. This, however, was expected to change now that Holiday Inn Galleria could be easily accessed internationally through the IHG network.

"Since we became IHG member last June, there has been no single day that we don't get booking through the IHG's Holidex Plus," says Pearl Peralta-Maclang, sales and marketing director.

HOLIDAY INN Ortigas

Holidex Plus is a worldwide reservation system that provides incremental business through cross-selling capabilities and world advertisement.

Vincent said Holiday Inn Manila Galleria had been undertaking soft refurbishing in the guest rooms to fully adapt to the Holiday Inn hallmarks and standards.

It will soon open executive floors and an executive lounge. The hotel would also adopt new technologies, including Internet connectivity in guest rooms and a property management system.

With all these in place, Vincent said, "the brand will produce results by itself."

SEC directs firms to submit audit of own corporate governance rules

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has directed companies to measure their compliance with good corporate governance practices and submit the results by July 31.

In a presentation during the Philippine Business Outlook Conference yesterday, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said that while majority of local companies have adopted their own manuals of corporate governance, "a good number" have yet to internalize these principles.

"In a way it's a matter of leadership within the company. It has to be internally generated," she explained.

Bautista said the SEC had come up with a 30-page checklist composed of 99 items covering the following dimensions of corporate governance:

- the roles, responsibilities and skills of the board of directors;
- management's code of conduct;
- management's strategy-setting and planning practices;
- organizational and procedural control structure and mechanisms;
- independent audit mechanism;
- shareholders' benefits; and
- compliance system.

The rating shall be from zero to five, with five as the highest.

BAUTISTA

Bautista said current data showed that 84 percent of listed companies have complied with the requirement to appoint independent directors, 93 percent have designated compliance officers and almost all have approved guidelines on the nomination and election of independent directors.

Bautista, thus, challenged Philippine companies to make the external assessment and the independent reviewer "superfluous."

"Only then can we say that corporate governance is here to stay, and that companies have finally embraced corporate governance principles as a way of life," she said.

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Ducks help farmers

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordonez

"YOU want the farmers to have the option of going into organic farming. But you give the ducks no option. You don't show any *utang na loob* and you eat them!" I jokingly told Manny Yap, executive director of Magsasaka at Sayantipiko Para Sa Ikauunlad Ng Agham Pang-Agrikultura (Masipag), a key proponent of organic farming.

I was referring to the *aigamo* method of growing rice developed in 1989 by Takao Furuno, a farmer from the Fukuoka Prefecture of Japan. This organic farming system relies on ducks to eat the insects and weeds that inhibit the growth of the rice seedlings. This principle is used in different forms in the Philippines. However, it is not widely implemented because of the alleged neglect given to organic farming.

Ducks for development

This system involves releasing ducklings into a rice paddy 10 days after the seedlings have been planted. For a one-hectare land, 150 ducklings are needed. These ducklings help the rice seedlings grow by eating both the insects and weeds that hamper their growth. The farmer no longer has to use large amounts of pesticides and herbicide, which when used excessively, cause serious damage. He is also saved from much of the backbreaking work of bending over to pull out weeds by hand.

There are still other benefits. The ducklings' droppings serve as natural fertilizers. When the ducklings stir up the soil in the rice paddy with their feet and bills, this increases the oxygen content of the soil, making it more nutritious for the seedlings. When it is time to harvest the rice, the ducks have grown fat. This is when I jokingly accused Manny Yap and the organically oriented farmers of showing no *utang na loob* by selling these ducks for meat.

Chemical inputs

The ducks not only give added income to the impoverished farmers who need it to survive. They also prevent the damage caused by an overabundance of chemical inputs to our consumers, our farmers, our land, and our environment.

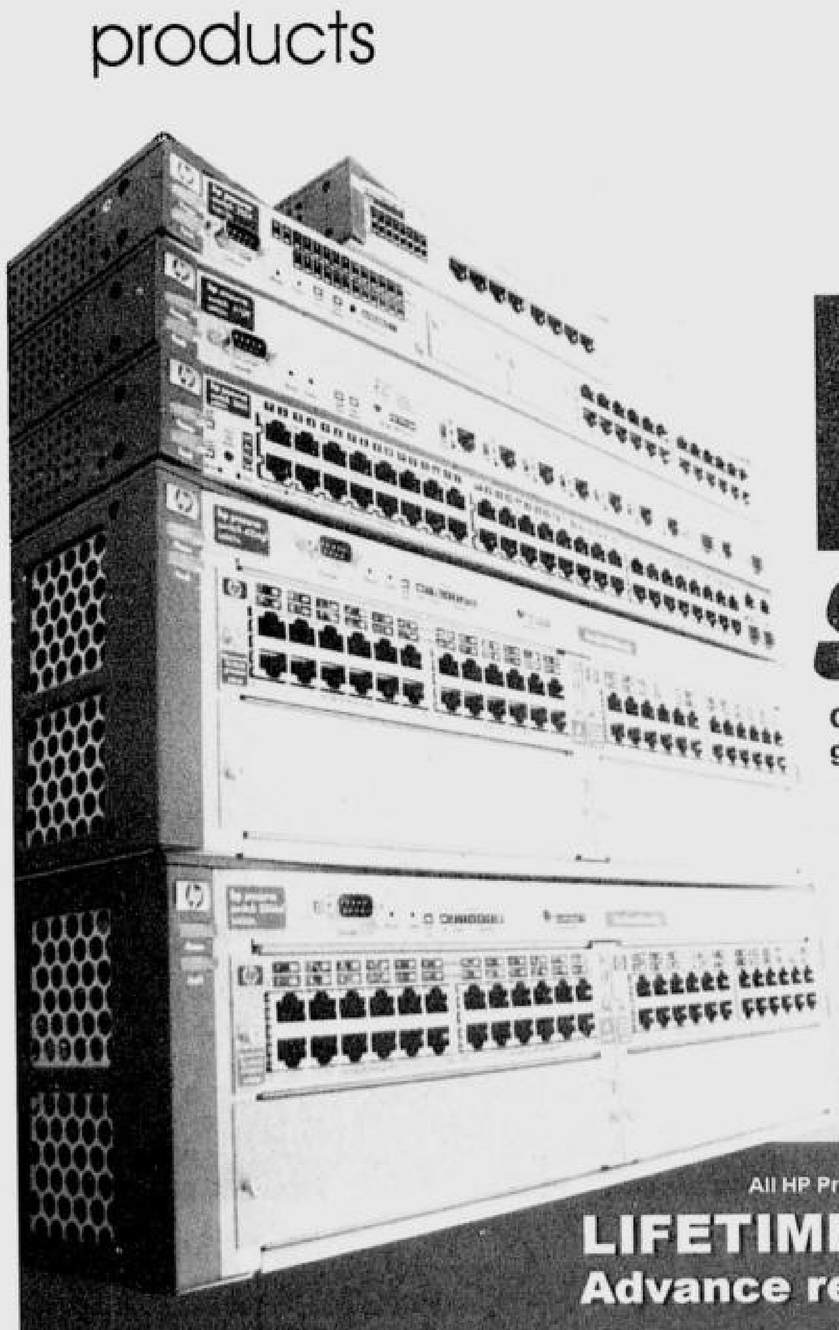
Carlos Basilio cites five harmful effects of the excessive use of chemical inputs. First, crop yield associated with chemical inputs are stagnating in intensively cultivated areas. For rice, yield growth in these areas begun to decline substantially in the late 80s. Second, increased genetic uniformity of a few modern varieties that require chemical inputs threatens diversity and increases the likelihood of crop vulnerability to pests and diseases. In a period of 60 years, the number of pesticide resistant arthropods increased from five to 504. Third, between five and seven million hectares of land are lost worldwide every year through soil erosion, salinization and chemical poisoning. Over application of fertilizers when pyrite containing soils are drained causes acidification of 5.7 million hectares of agricultural land, more than 4 million hectares in Asia alone. Fourth, agro-chemicals often pollute the wider environment, disrupt key ecological processes and harm organisms. They are reported to cause fish kills, poison cattle and reduce biological control agents in pollinators and soil organisms. Fifth, farmers and their families are continuously exposed to the effects of use and abuse of hazardous chemicals. Pesticides count for about three million cases of acute poisoning throughout the world, with 220,000 deaths per year. Aside from cancer risks, these pesticides are reported to reduce the immune system's ability to deal with infectious agents. This is especially important in developing countries like the Philippines where infectious diseases account for the majority of deaths in the rural areas.

Future directions

In a meeting last month, UPLB professor Ted Mendoza asked agriculture officials why P800 million was allocated for chemical based rice farming while less than P10 million was given for the organic based program. In the same meeting, Masikap director Yap asked why only the seeds that required chemical inputs were given financial support while the organically oriented seeds were not. The DA officials said that they were already doing some organic programs, but that there was certainly room for improvement.

However, the key issue today goes far beyond ducks, the rice program and financial support for seeds. Just as the DA spent P5 million for master plans for products such as hogs, poultry, *tilapia* and mangoes, there should likewise be an allocation for a Philippine Organic Agriculture master plan.

In fairness to our government officials, they are often forced to handle necessary day-to-day administrative matters, attend numerous interagency meetings and participate in several ceremonial functions. They are therefore tempted to spend less than the required time for the longer term, strategic, less urgent, but significantly more important policies and programs. Today, our agriculture development program is largely chemical input oriented. The DA's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program is a significant step towards the organic orientation. It is hoped that the DA gives more emphasis to IPM and other organic programs. This way, the organic option will be offered to the farmers, the proper balance between the chemical and organic orientations will be achieved, and our nation will have *utang na loob* to those who will bring about this needed change. *(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former Undersecretary of the DA and the DTI and chair/Secretary, Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 851-6635)*



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CAT: Surviving the test of time

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

LIKE any other newly married couple, Dante and Lourdes Gutierrez dreamt of providing the best they can for themselves and for their future family.

While other couples opted to pursue careers in the corporate world, they decided to take another route and be on their own.

SUCCESS STORY

In 1971, they worked as free-lance agents distributing products such as medical and office supplies, home appliances, construction materials, chemicals and petroleum products.

Dante handled fund raising, merchandising, marketing and operations, while Lourdes was in charge of documentation, audit, records and control.

Just a year in marketing and distribution, they decided to put up their own business—Capitol Allied Trading—using their hard-earned savings from commissions of P121,000.

CAT was initially an extension of their previous work. They bought products on cash or consignment basis and delivered them to clients. From these efforts, they earned their first million.

Diversification

In 1972, martial law was declared but the Gutierrez couple looked at the turmoil as an opportunity to invest in a product line that they thought would stand the test of time and type of government, thus, their entry into the petroleum products business, including LPG refilling and gasoline station operations.

The move resulted in a highly diversified business, on the strength of the quality and reliability of its products and services. Now on its 30th year, CAT, through CAT-Gas, corners 86 percent of the market for industrial and medical gases such as oxygen and acetylene.

CAT-Gas also handles bulk deliveries of petroleum products to gasoline stations and processes lube oils. It also operates two Caltex service stations dispensing an average monthly volume of between 3 million and 3.5 million liters of oil.

These are the Triple 8 Caltex station along San Fernando, Pampanga and the Round d' Clock Caltex station along Visayas Avenue, considered the No. 1 in the region and the third largest nationwide.

CAT was also prompted to go into the transportation business after the Gutierrez couple experienced delays in the delivery of their goods which affected their reputation for good service.

CAT now services some of the transport requirements of different companies, including the three major oil companies, on top of delivering its own LPG products.

It has about 500 units of light to heavy cars, pickups, trucks, chemical, black and white petroleum product tankers and dump and cargo trucks.

CAT also has three shipping vessels—two for loose cargo and one LPG carrier.

Second generation

Now, the second generation of the Gutierrezes, brothers Jerome and James, are now handling the family business. Jerome says his parents have always credited the growth of the business to the collective effort of their employees who were one in working toward a single goal.

He says his father has always stressed that human resources are the company's best assets, thus, the company is proud that it has not experienced any strike in its corporate history.

Jerome also cited the support of financial partners such as the former Far East Bank and Trust Co., PCI Leasing and Finance Inc., Prudential Bank and Asian Bank, who also gambled on the business with the Gutierrez family.

The younger Gutierrez says the new generation wants to keep CAT on the same road to growth by making sure that CAT-Gas remains the LPG brand of choice, even with today's highly competitive and deregulated market.

"Two years ago, we launched our United Colors of CAT-Gas and we have always made sure that we provide new tanks and provide our customers with good service, so that we can remain ahead," he says.

Gutierrez adds that a major move is the opening up of its LPG refilling business to franchisees.

Key to prosperity

"Through franchising, we can better cover other parts of the Philippines like Cebu and Mindanao. We already have a track record because we have 15 of our own refilling stations in Luzon. We can even bring the concept to other countries in Asia," Gutierrez says.

As much as 80 percent of CAT-Gas' products are distributed in Luzon, 15 percent in Visayas and 5 percent in Mindanao.

He says CAT-Gas is still finalizing the terms and conditions of the franchise contract. He says each refilling plant will likely cost between P8 million and P10 million, excluding the land, with the return on investment to be achieved in three years.

A refilling plant usually takes up 3,000 square meters of property.

"In food chains, the franchise costs about P15-P20 million and the ROI is six to eight years. It can be shorter with LPG because it is a vital product," Gutierrez says.

And just as Jerome and his brother James are busy building on their parents' success, Dante and Lourdes have remained on the diversification mode, even in their retirement years.

The new businesses are Gourmet's Taste Meat Products, which started out as a hobby and has now become a business selling tocino, longganisa and ham, and Perfect Dough, which sells bakery products.

CAPITOL Allied Trading plans to eventually expand to Asia.

"We owe all these to character and integrity and prayer. With prayer, nothing is impossible. It is the key to prosperity," Gutierrez says.

GOV'T BORROWING MIX

GIR may fall below $15B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S dollar reserves may fall below $15 billion in the coming months if the government opts to secure its remaining borrowing requirements from the local market, instead of offshore sources, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

"The GIR (gross international reserves) is still at $15.8 billion now and it should stay there. It may, however, go down below $15 billion if the government will source its requirements from the local market and if exports will remain sluggish," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The GIR dropped to $15.867 billion in end-June from $16.07 billion in the previous month.

A declining GIR is feared to put pressure on the peso.

The peso has been volatile recently due to a confluence of political and economic concerns that have been pushing investors to re-think their placements in the local market. It breached the 54 to $1 level last Wednesday and closed at 54.025.

The central bank must keep the GIR at $14-$15 billion this year to impress on financial markets that it has sufficient dollars to fight speculative attacks on the peso.

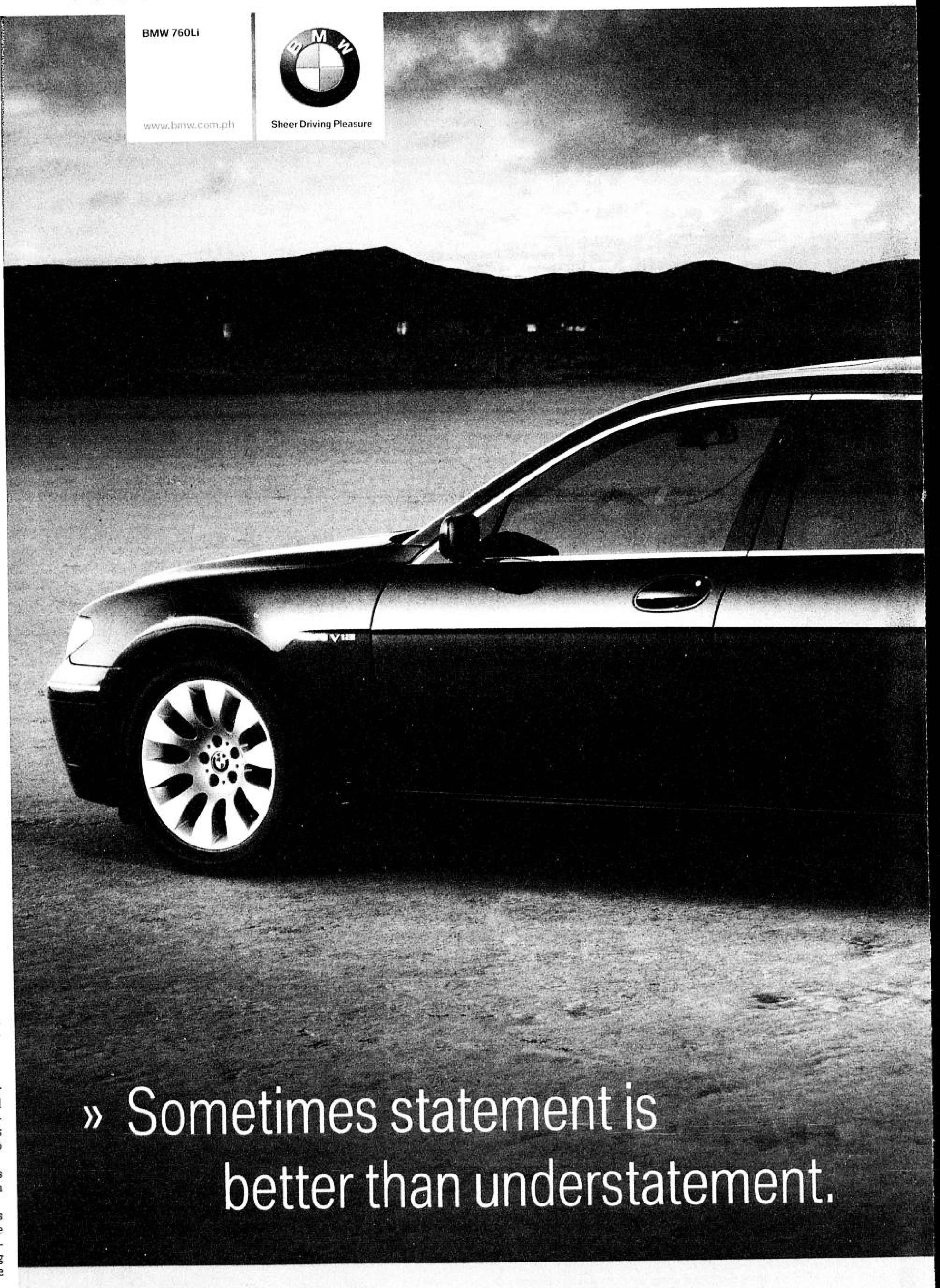
Buenaventura urged the national government to source offshore the payments for its maturing dollar obligations to ease the pressure on the GIR as well as the exchange rate.

In 2004, however, the government said it would likely borrow 80 percent of its estimated P165-billion net financing requirement from the local market, a substantial increase from this year's domestic borrowing ratio of 60 percent local, 40 percent foreign.

Buenaventura said the government must evaluate the implications of such a borrowing mix on the other targets, such as a balance of payments surplus of $1.2 billion and $1.9 billion in current account surplus next year.

He said next year's financing program was still being finalized and the ratio could still changed to 60-40 or even 50-50.

The national government still needs to borrow $400 million for this year's requirements. It intends to pre pay some $500 million in offshore borrowings next year.



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US Fed rates may go down to zero

WASHINGTON—The Federal Reserve is willing to push a key interest rate to zero if necessary and leave rates low for a considerable period of time to ensure the economy escapes the grips of a destabilizing period of falling prices, Federal Reserve Governor Ben S. Bernanke said Wednesday.

Bernanke, one of seven members of the Fed board, spelled out in more detail comments by Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan during congressional testimony last week. Greenspan pledged that the Fed was prepared to keep rates low "for as long as it takes" to get the economy growing at a stronger pace.

Bernanke, in a speech at the University of California at San Diego, said that even when the economy begins growing at healthier rates, that may not be enough to ensure that the risk of deflation has been dealt with.

Deflation is a widespread decline in consumer prices. The problem now faced by the country is that the inflation rate, excluding energy and food, has dropped so low.

The United States has not seen a prolonged period of falling prices since the Great Depression of the 1930s. *AP*

Japan export growth stands still in June

TOKYO—Japan's export growth came to a standstill in June as demand faltered in the United States and Asia, its top two markets, clouding recent optimism over a possible recovery in the economy.

Exports were flat from the same month a year earlier after 13 straight months of increases, while in volume terms they fell for the first time in 16 months, Ministry of Finance figures showed on Thursday.

The figures are the first piece of bad news for the Japanese economy in several weeks, and cast a shadow over hopes that recent improved business investment and rising stock prices meant the beginning of the end of 10 years of stagnation.

"The export figures are surprisingly low, although I think it's too early to say they are going downhill," said Toshikimi Kaneki, an economist at Sumitomo Trust and Banking.

"It's somewhat puzzling because US consumption is still said to be resilient. Exports to Asia seem less brisk than in recent months."

Exports are a key driver of growth in the Japanese economy, and demand for Japanese cars and electronics from Asian countries in particular has helped offset poor business conditions at home. *Reuters*

Asian leaders confident about '04

HONG KONG—Asian business executives are confident the region's economic recovery will be on track by mid-2004, and predict solid growth for executive travel in the region, a survey released Thursday showed.

Some 45 percent of business leaders surveyed by the Far Eastern Economic Review said the upturn would begin in the first half of 2004 while over 30 percent believe it will come sooner.

However, the survey of nearly 3,000 executives found marked regional differences—22 percent of Australians think the recovery is already under way while 73 percent of Singaporeans do not expect any good economic news before next year.

The survey also painted an optimistic picture for executive travel, a key market for many Asian airlines struggling to cast off the crippling effects of the SARS crisis and the war in Iraq.

Despite the tough times, the survey found many executives continue to travel first class or business class.

Despite the economic downturn of 2003, entrepreneurs continued to make an average of eight trips per year, the bulk of which were for business. Some Hong Kong residents reported making up to 25 trips a year. *AFP*

Europe on way to recovery

TUESSLING, Germany—European Central Bank Governing Council member Ernst Welteke said on Wednesday the German and euro zone economies had now troughed and he expected faster economic growth in the second half of this year.

"Fundamental data in Germany and Europe point to an upward movement in the second half of the year," Welteke told journalists on the sidelines of a conference.

This held true when looking at recent data such as the June reading of Germany's closely watched Ifo business sentiment index, added Welteke, who is also the Bundesbank's president.

"This gives one the impression the trough has now been reached," he said. The Ifo index rose strongly in June, to 88.8 from 87.6 a month earlier, beating forecasts and fueling hopes of a second half recovery in Europe's biggest economy.

The ECB will next review its interest rate policy stance at a meeting next week, but is widely expected to hold borrowing costs unchanged at a historical low of 2 percent.

Asked whether the euro's recent weakness was a risk to the favorable euro zone inflation outlook, Welteke said: "Not yet, I think," adding the currency's movements in the last few months were within normal foreign exchange fluctuation bands.

The euro has been dropping from all-time highs above $1.19 reached in late May, to levels just above $1.11, which may threaten the ECB's outlook inflation is on the way down and will fall clearly below its 2 percent upper limit next year. *Reuters*

Kodak to cut 6,000 jobs

NEW YORK—Eastman Kodak Co. on Wednesday said it would cut up to 9 percent of its workforce and posted a 60-percent drop in second-quarter profits, hurt by weakness in camera and film sales, especially in China.

Despite the soft results, shares rose as much as 8 percent on views Kodak has come to grips with some of its problems, and a belief Kodak may not cut its dividend, which at about 7 percent has the highest yield among blue chip stocks.

Rochester, New York-based Kodak, the leading maker of photographic film, which has been scrambling for alternative markets, said it would cut 4,500 to 6,000 jobs, or between 6 percent and 9 percent of its global workforce. The cuts will be made primarily in corporate administrative departments, manufacturing and research and development, the company said.

"I think reality has hit them in the face," said analyst Shannon Cross of Cross Research. "The economy did not come back like they had hoped and they had said that if it did not come back they would look at cutting costs." Kodak's film and paper business faces a long-term threat from digital photography, where users record snapshots onto a memory chip and delete unwanted pictures. Analysts say Kodak must shrink its size and fund profitable growth areas such as medical imaging, which makes X-ray products for hospitals.

Toward that end, Kodak on Monday said it would buy PracticeWorks Inc., a maker of software for dental practices and medical imaging systems, for about $466 million.

"Our traditional consumer film and processing operations continue to face challenges associated with the increasing popularity of digital photography as well as persistent economic weakness ... price pressure and an associated decline in travel and tourism," said Dan Carp, Kodak chief executive.

Sales in China, its second biggest market, were particularly hard hit. They fell 19 percent amid a slump related to the SARS outbreak. However, Carp said that growth areas performed well in the period, with digital camera sales up 65 percent and health imaging earnings up about 17 percent.

Kodak's second quarter net income declined to $112 million, or 39 cents a share, compared with $284 million, or 97 cents a share in the comparable quarter a year ago. *Reuters*

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premium mobility, introducing innovations like the first VALVETRONIC V12 in the world, iDrive and Dynamic Drive. It stands for a totally new approach to luxury car concepts, to style, driving and being driven. It marks the destination for the followers to come. And sets its owners apart who, needless to mention, are also ahead of the rest.

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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Franchising: Answer to OFWs' dreams

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ONE of the dreams of some eight million overseas Filipino workers is to set up their own business in the Philippines.

They certainly have the financial capability, bringing in a combined $3.29 billion in remittances for the first five months of this year alone.

Unfortunately, what most of them lack is the entrepreneurial flair to convert their dreams into stable businesses, thus, many of their business ventures eventually fail.

The state-run SB Corp., thus, came up with the SME-Financing for Organizationally Competent and Excellent Franchise Businesses (SME-FORCE) program in July last year, to introduce these OFWs to consider going into franchising an established business.

Luna David, SB Corp. vice president for loans, tells Business Friday that by attracting OFWs to go into franchised businesses, they have a better chance of making it as entrepreneurs.

Franchising basically refers to an entrepreneur getting the right to put up a branch of an established business, operating it like his own, under some supervision from the franchisor.

Figures show that as many as 9 out of 10 ventures into franchising have succeeded, while the opposite is true for start-up businesses.

"This is really our push for OFWs, a part of our advocacy to help them return to the Philippines after getting enough savings from working abroad," she says.

"We believe that through the franchise system, people who have no track record in business like them will still have a good chance of making it as businessmen, instead of doing it on their own," David adds.

Protecting OFWs

SB Corp. chair Zorayda Amelia Alonzo stresses that the SME-FORCE program protects the OFWs by limiting the possible franchise ventures to the members of the two franchising associations in the Philippines—the Philippine Franchise Association and the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc.

Alonzo adds that representatives of these two franchise associations met with Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II early last year, which eventually led to the crafting of the SME-FORCE program.

She says that by limiting the franchise concepts to those affiliated with these two organizations, OFWs and other budding Filipino entrepreneurs are assured of the legitimacy of the franchise concepts they are investing in.

BUY-THE-BUCKET

BUY-THE-BUCKET goes for P180,000

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A FIGARO franchise costs between P2 million and P6 million.

David says the two franchise organizations have the ability to police themselves, and most of the members have established a track record of at least two years in the industry before opening up to other business partners.

The SME-FORCE financing program is open not only to OFWs but to other Filipinos who want to invest in franchise concepts. The financing is medium-term and intended for the start-up or expansion of a franchise outlet.

While the borrower is the franchisee alone, both the franchisee and the company offering the franchise shall be evaluated before the loan is granted.

The franchisor, or the one offering the business, must have at least three years experience in the franchising business, has at least three existing franchisees and should be profitable for at least one year.

Potential investors can check out some of these homegrown franchise concepts during the 2nd Filipino Franchise Show organized by the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. The show will be held at SM Megamall's Megatrade Hall from July 25-27.

The franchise operations considered by SB Corp. under the program must be covered by a comprehensive set of systems that governs operations, preferably documented in an operations manual and the financial profile and performance meets the standards of SB Corp.

The borrower, on the other hand, must have at least P500,000 in assets excluding land, at least 60 percent Filipino-owned and has been granted a franchise license by the franchisor-firm.

He must also have the capability to finance up to 30 percent of the cost of putting up the franchise concept, which makes OFWs ideal targets because they do have savings at their disposal.

Credit partners

SME-FORCE guidelines showed that each borrower can borrow between P100,000 and P5 million. It shall be payable in three years with a six-month grace period on the principal portion.

The franchising company also commits to the program by guaranteeing half of the loan, and committing to take over the operations of the franchise project in case of default.

"This reflects SB Corp.'s strategy of encouraging the organizing of business franchise associations into competent credit management partners, with the organizational capability to provide endorsement inputs on the viability of the franchisor-company," Alonzo explains.

Just a year into its launch, some P33 million have been released to 15 franchisees and David hopes to increase the loan release to at least P100 million every year.

"The franchisees have been very good at the repayment of their loans and these are ordinary investors. We are already in talks with different OFW organizations to let them know about the program so that we can have more people availing themselves of these financing schemes," David says.

(For information on SME-FORCE, please call SB Corp. at 8105791)

Best Taste, Best Price, BEST CHOICE

LOTS' A PIZZA franchise costs between P100,000 and P500,000.

Sugarcane goods bring sweet success to farmer

By Michael B. Jaucian
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

POLANGUI, Albay—Through hard work and perseverance, Restituto Basquines turned his three-hectare farm into a productive plantation for sugarcane, pili and coconut.

For this, he received a plaque from President Macapagal-Arroyo as national awardee for "Most Outstanding Farmer" during the Gawad Saka Coco-based System awards ceremony last year.

But more than the award, Basquines of Barangay Gamot, became more famous after presenting the products he makes from crops he harvests—the *panutsa* and the santan.

Panutsa, or *calamay* in the Bicol dialect, is one of the province's delicacies. It is made of hardened sugarcane juice and coconut milk shaped in a coconut shell.

It is a key ingredient in making candies and pastries here. It is used as a substitute for sugar.

Santan, on the other hand, is made from coconut milk, sugarcane juice and pili kernel.

It is also popularly known as coco jam—sutied for rice cakes and even used as bread filling.

Santan is a new product of Basquines, unlike the panutsa, which is a three-generation-old enterprise.

Basquines says making panutsa or calamay was his grandparents' business in the 1920s. This was handed down to his parents who, in turn, gave it to him as a gift when he got married.

The cooking process, according to Basquines, takes about two and a half hours.

Before producing panutsa and santan making, he sold copra because the only trees planted on his lot at that time were coconut trees and sugarcane.

To maximize the use of the land and to increase production, Philippine Coconut Authority provincial manager Alfredo Rillo introduced the intercropping program under coconut trees, which he says, improves the farmers' livelihood.

Basquines claims the knowledge improved his harvest of other crops like pili, ginger and monggo beans.

Thus, last year, the PCA recommended him for the award.

With the recognition the santan got during the occasion, he was encouraged to produce the food item that he used to make only for the consumption of the family and his friends.

The santan, along with the panutsa, is now being patronized by Bicolanos and even by local and foreign tourists who visit Albay province because it is naturally processed and there are no preservatives.

The products have a shelf life of about two weeks, are available in the market and even in the PCA office.

Santan, in a plastic jar, costs only P50 while the panutsa costs P30.

According to Basquines, he gets bulk orders for panutsa and santan during the Lenten and Yuletide seasons.

Basquines supplies at least 10 sacks of panutsa a week to Rosario Fortem, one of the biggest suppliers of panutsa of the different public markets in Albay province.

"I hope I can serve a bigger market for my sweet delicacies in the future," Baquines said with a sweet smile.

MICHAEL B JAUCIAN

RESTITUTO Basquiñes wraps the panutsa with dried banana leaves.

Catching up with the 'tiangges'

TAX-FILES

By Lucil C. Quisay-Vicerra
SGV & CO

FROM store operations to multinational corporations, tax compliance has never been man's determining trait. As much as taxation is a primordial necessity for our country's existence, it seems that we are likewise assured of the formidable existence of tax evaders. To this end, the government exerts its utmost effort to rap tax evaders who undoubtedly add up to the problem of revenue deficit.

One profitable business enterprise considerably growing right under the nose of tax authorities is the so-called "tiangge" or "privilege-store" operation. A "tiangge" or "privilege-store" refers to a stall or outlet which is not permanently fixed to the ground and is normally set up in places like the shopping malls, hospitals, office buildings, hotels, villages or subdivisions, churches, parks, streets and other public places, which puts on sale a variety of goods/services within brief durations of time. Because of the nature of such stall or outlet, tiangge operations have evaded taxation since it is difficult for the BIR to track down and/or compel their operators and organizers to pay the proper tax due.

The Department of Finance (DOF) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), through the issuance of revenue regulations, endeavor to prescribe effective modes of collection of taxes to ensure that tax evaders pay their rightful contribution to the national coffers pursuant to their authority under Section 245(j) of the Tax Code.

With the rapid growth in the past years of business enterprises using the "privilege-store" to sell goods or services, the aspect of tax evasion has indeed become a major concern. To remedy this, the DOF and the BIR recently promulgated Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 16-2003, imposing advance payment of VAT or percentage tax and of income tax on "privilege-store" and prescribing/reiterating the obligations of organizer or exhibitor of space for the operation of "privilege-store," as well as of the "privilege-store" operators.

Obligations of the exhibitor/organizer. The term "exhibitor" or "organizer" refers to the primary lessee of the entire space where the operations of privilege-stores are held by a virtue of a lease contract executed between the owner of the leased property and the organizer who subsequently sub-leases the same to the privilege-store operators during the entire duration of the lease contract.

In case the owner of the real property is the one directly leasing to the privilege-store operator, such owner shall be constituted as the exhibitor or organizer.

Under RR 16-2003, it is the duty of every exhibitor or organizer of a tiangge:

(1) To post the exhibitor's certificate of registration (COR) issued by the BIR in a conspicuous place in the area or space devoted to the establishment of privilege-stores;

(2) Upon accrual or payment of lease rentals to the owner of real property, to withhold and deduct from such accrued or paid rentals, withholding tax on rentals at the rate prescribed in Revenue Regulations 2-98, as amended (5 percent of the gross amounts, unless later amended), except of course if the exhibitor or organizer is the owner of the leased property;

(3) To provide the revenue district office having jurisdiction over the place where the operation of the privilege-store is held with the list of the names, the individual TIN and COR of tiangge operators participating in the event and the specific dates and duration when such operations shall be conducted;

(4) To demand from the privilege-store operator presentation of proof of BIR registration and of payment of actual withholding tax due on income payment or expenditure item paid or accrued, or of advance income tax, VAT or percentage tax due for payment prior to the actual operation of the privilege store or prior to the start of the month to which the advance tax payment shall be applied; and

(5) To monitor the compliance by privilege-store operators with their responsibilities and obligations prescribed RR 16-2003 (which authority to monitor with corresponding power to revoke the lease agreement shall form part of the contract of lease executed between the parties involved).

Obligations of the privilege-store operators. A "privilege-store operator" refers to the person or entity sub-leasing from the "exhibitor" or "organizer" a space upon which privilege-stores are erected for the purpose of selling goods or services during the entire duration of the lease contract. RR 16-2003 requires every privilege-store operator to withhold and deduct from such accrued or paid rentals withholding tax on rentals at 5 percent of the gross amount, upon accrual or payment or rentals of sub-leased spaces to the exhibitor/organizer. Furthermore, the privilege-store operation is required to pay business tax (VAT or percentage tax) and income tax in advance to the BIR, through the authorized agent bank (AAB) or revenue collection officer (RCO), in the absence of AAB, of the concerned RDO regardless of whether or not he is duly registered with the BIR.

Nonetheless, privilege-stores are mandated to register with the RDO where their principal place of business is located (i.e., the business address indicated in the Articles of Incorporation, in case of corporate taxpayers, or where the books of accounts are kept, in case of individual taxpayers).

Imposition of and credit for advance payment of taxes. A business tax (VAT or percentage tax) of P150 per day or P4,500 per month, and an income tax of P50 per day or P1,500 per month during the entire duration that such privilege-store is allowed by the concerned local government unit to be set up temporarily should be paid in advance by the tiangge operators.

As these are advance payments, the same shall be credited against the actual business tax and income tax due from such persons for the taxable period for which such advance payment were remitted to the BIR.

Specifically, if the seller of goods/services is a non-VAT taxpayer whose gross sales/receipts do not exceed P550,000 a year and therefore, liable to the three percentage tax, such advance business tax paid shall be credited against the percentage tax due from such seller for the month for which such advance payment was collected. In case of a VAT taxpayer, the amount of business tax paid should, in addition to the input tax credits allowed by the Tax Code, be allowed as credit against the output tax on the accumulated gross sales/receipts realized by the seller for the month for which such advance payment was made. Likewise, the amount of advance income tax paid should be credited against the income tax due from the seller when he files his quarterly, as well as his annual, income tax return for the year.

The advance payment of business tax and of income tax should be evidenced by the duly validated copy of BIR Form No. 0605 and the official receipt/deposit slip issued by the AAB or the RCO, in the absence of an AAB, of the corresponding RDO. Such proof of advance payment must be attached to the applicable tax returns for purposes of claiming the advance payments as credits against the actual taxes due; otherwise, any claim on account thereof should be disallowed and the assessment of deficiency taxes should correspondingly be made.

When advance payments are made. The advance payment of business and income taxes will be paid on a monthly basis which will be paid a week before the start of every month and remitted to the AAB or RCO, in the absence of an AAB, using BIR Form No.. 0605 (payment form). If the duration of the exhibit or tiangge operation is for a period lesser than one month, the advance payment for the said lesser period will be made within the week prior to the actual start of the exhibit.

Conclusion. With RR 16-2003 in effect, a tiangge cannot operate without being registered with the BIR and without the pre-payment of the probable tax due. This seeks to effectively curb tax evasion which is commonplace in tiangge operations. None can agree more to the propriety of the object which the regulations want to achieve. But the effective administration thereof is another story to tell.

Strategy for pharmaceutical companies: Generic versus branded

MARKETING RX

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

THANKS for your questions. Here's one common one that caught our attention. It's relevant because of the times. Consumers and government are all batting for generics and lower drug prices, while pharmaceutical companies are out to preserve their brands' profit margins. It's the issue of marketing generics versus branded medications.

Here's the question raised by a quite a number of multinational pharmaceutical executives:

"In the pharmaceutical industry, the R&D cost of developing a new drug molecule is very high. How can a market leader product who developed the molecule sustain its position in the long term with the entry of generic products of the same quality but at about 30 percent lower price?"

Here's the Marketing Rx:

It's instructive to start with some important clarifications about the market situation here.

A prescription drug that's a market leader product is usually the owner of a patented drug molecule. It therefore enjoys or has enjoyed the usual 22 years of patent protection. During this period, no generic version of the product can enter the market at a drastically reduced price. The patent law therefore understands that the developer of the drug molecule spent a great deal of money. It's only fair that it's given the opportunity to recover its investment during these two decades of protection by allowing it to follow a fairly high return-on-investment pricing.

The phrase "entry of generic products" should be placed in this context. No generics can enter during those protected years. Generics can enter only an off-patent molecule. This is true with all the generics that are now available. The base molecule on which the patent owning brand is assumed by law to have had all the time necessary for it to recover its R&D investment and make money, is now no longer protected.

There are so-called "blockbuster" drugs that have gone or will go off-patent. The biggest of these is Zocor of Merck whose patent will expire in 2005. The two next highest selling drugs, Prilosec of Astra-Zeneca and Claritin of Schering-Plough, saw the expiration of their patent in 2002. This year will see three blockbusters go off-patent: Neurontin of Pfizer, Ciprobay of Bayer, and Plavix of Bristol-Myers Squibb.

So it should be clear that when a patent of a drug molecule expires, it becomes possible for a generic to come in at a much reduced price because it will obtain the same quality molecule from a much cheaper source or sources. These are legitimate sources from India, Taiwan, Australia or Europe.

Good news and bad news

The good news. What happens in the market is this. When generics come in, they immediately price segment the market. There is now the premium market segment with the branded high priced products and the price or economy market segment with the generics priced at 20 percent, 30 percent or even 50 percent lower in price.

The bad news. Here's an important marketing concept to keep in mind in this case.

Generics won't survive unless they deliver on their promise to satisfy consumers on their priority product values. And those values are simple: to get medicines at a much lower price than the branded but at a minimum quality. But it is this same principle that is responsible for making the high-priced branded products continue and in almost all instances retain the larger share of the market. There are consumers whose priority product value is tested proven product quality, first; and price, second. As long as this segment of consumers persists, the high priced branded medications will also persist.

So what does all this say to a market leader brand whose patent on its molecule has expired and is now "besieged" by generics? What should he do?

Launch a fighting brand

The Marketing Rx is simple. Follow the market segmentation prescription which says: "Once you're faced with a market that has partitioned itself into two segments with two different priority needs and product values, you can only retain your market and competitive position if you participate in the two segments with two different products each specifically tailored to satisfy each of the two different market segments." So come in with a "fighting" brand that will match the generics, but retain your premium brand to continue lording it over in the premium market segment. When you do this, your combined share in the two segments will gain for you a total market share that will retain for you your leadership position.

Globally, this is what the second biggest generics company, Novartis Generics, had done to Schering-Plough's Claritin whose patent expired last year. Novartis Generics filed with the U.S. FDA a generic version of this drug "with patent challenge." This filing entitles the filing generics company to enjoy a 6-month marketing exclusivity. This strategy brings in tremendous revenues in that short 7-month period.

The example that's often cited is Barr Laboratories in New York who launched a generic version of Prozac. In its first six months, Barr made $311 million but as soon as the 6-month exclusivity ended, sales went down to $54 million in the next three months. But the story validates the truth of our marketing Rx in favor of, the "if-you-can't-beat-them-join-them" market segmentation strategy.

Ecozone hopes to make a splash tapping SMEs

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

DIZON

VICTORIA Wave Special Economic Zone is hoping to make a big splash by focusing on clients that big economic zones find too small for their large-scale operations.

"There aren't enough ecozones targeting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country and we hope to fill this niche," says Rodney Dizon, chief financial officer of the family-run Victoria Wave.

Dizon, a scion of businessman Rafael Dizon the founder of Asian Terminals Inc., says the company has been actively pursuing small foreign and local exporters that would require about 300 square meters in space on top of the referrals that the company gets from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

An integral part of the firm's marketing strategy was to promote the Philippines as a potent investment site, a difficult task considering that the tide of investments have been going to China in the past few years.

Dizon admis that marketing the Philippines was difficult considering that China has a lower wage scale and industrial space costs only half of the Philippines rate of P120 per square meter a month.

"But we tell them that it was easier to do business in the Philippines where the rules are straight out unlike in China where most of the deals have to go through the government. Plus, Filipinos speak English and offer more quality work," Dizon says.

Dizon is banking on Victoria Wave's main selling point as the only industrial estate within Metro Manila (the 23-hectare complex is a few kilometers away from SM Fairview) to lure in both local and foreign SMEs.

He expects to fill up Victoria Wave within a year with new locators most probably involved in woodworking, jewelry, light electronics, and textiles.

Dizon says the company has set its sights on building more ecozones preferably in the nearby Bulacan area.

"We concur with the government's visions to duplicate the Calabarzon development in areas North of Metro Manila," says Dizon who earned his spurs in the family's land management business in Las Vegas in the last two years.

Since Dizon came on board at the beginning of the year, Victoria Wave has embarked on a P20 million investment program to upgrade its road and power facilities and keep the ecozone at par with much bigger industrial estates in the south.

Negros producers tap corporate gifts market

LAMINATED resin made into folders

"CORPORATE giveaways" is easily one of the most popular means of creating awareness for a product or service, arousing interest in a company or establishment, promoting an event, and subsequently achieving recall and demand for such product, company or event.

The demand for corporate giveaways has increasingly grown in recent years. What used to be seasonal, usually at Christmastime, is now a year-round industry geared towards different market segments. But while there is a promising market for such, the need for quality, functional and cost-effective items are critical points of consideration by companies and corporations that widely use them.

Looking at the ingenuity of our local producers, so many design possibilities can be developed ranging from promotional items for product launchings, conferences and seminars, company anniversaries, as well as institutional gifts.

The Association of Negros Producers (ANP) based in Bacolod City aims to tap this promising market when it holds the First Negros Corporate Gift Show at the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) building at the corner of Sen. Gil J. Puyat and Makati Avenues in Makati City on July 28-Aug. 1, 2003.

Doreen Alicia Peña, ANP President said, the gift show hopes to facilitate market entry for alternative products that are specially designed for corporations, and open market opportunities for members of the association, many of whom are now engaged in the export of garments, giftwares, home furnishings and processed food.

With the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and with the support of DBP., ANP wants to further enhance the image of Negros as the center for quality gifts and housewares, as well as encourage product innovation and development among local manufacturers.

ANP was organized to provide an alternative economic activity in Negros following the decline of prices in the world market for sugar, its main industry, then the top dollar earner for the country.

DBP has been a major partner of small and medium enterprises in the country through its various credit programs, both wholesale and retail, mostly sourced from multilateral and bilateral institutions. Their Credit Line for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (CMSME) program has available funds of P1.46 billion. Their loan portfolio by size as of June 30, 2003 stands at P1.028B for micro, P1.061B for cottage, P3.985B for small, and P7.201B for medium.

Recognizing SMEs as the driving force of the economy, DBP has sustained its assistance to SMEs as one of its major thrusts. The "1st Negros Corporate Gifts Show" is just one of the many programs that they support.

To be displayed in the Corporate Gift Show are products resulting from the design development efforts encouraged by the ANP in conducting an annual product development competition. has organized a designers' guild to encourage fresh concepts and initiatives.

Nostalgia proves to be a very good sales tool

By Roger Pe
Contributor

FOOTE, Cone and Belding's commercial for Cadbury Fry's Turkish Delight, shot in the '70s by Ridley Scott is currently being re-broadcast in the U.K.

IN LAST year's Pilak Awards, where the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines (4A's) honored the country's best 50 ads for the last 50 years, some ads stood out from the rest because they withstood the test of time. McCann-Erickson's "The Godfather" and "Novices" for Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce and Basic's "Angat Sa Iba" for Sarsi Cola were in a league of their own. Indeed, they can be branded as classics in the real sense of the word because they were still conceptually strong and crafted beautifully compared to what ad agencies churn out today.

Would they still bring in the sales volume if they were aired today? Probably, yes.

Nostalgia has always proven to be a good sales tool. Visions of yesterday bring both comfort and familiarity to commercials and consequently may encourage consumers to be more receptive to the brand.

Globally, retro imagery has been used frequently as a device to encourage these feelings in the consumers. But what is new about the retro trend today is that some agencies are re-running commercials from the '70s and '80s in the belief that they are still relevant today without updating them in post or re-shooting.

For instance, the original version of Foote, Cone and Belding's commercial for Cadbury Fry's Turkish Delight, shot in the '70s by Ridley Scott is currently being re-broadcast in the U.K. Cadbury's message is clearly to reassure us that Turkish Delight is still full of Eastern promise but how many of us feel their advertising campaign is tempting? According to Cadbury's media relations spokesperson Tony Bilsborough, "Our research has been very positive, showing that Turkish Delight sales have increased. We tested a targeted female audience around the ages of 25 to 30 and found that the ad was still relevant. The whole concept of the Arabian desert evoked warm nostalgic memories of when they first saw the commercial!"

Another commercial with a remarkably long shelf-life is Wrigley's Chewing Gum (shown again through TBWA London). This '70s campaign shows a couple happily chewing gum while watching a band of majorettes, looks old-fashioned among other, more contemporary spots in ad breaks. But does it touch a positive consumer nerve? Alastair Whalley, marketing manager at Wrigley's, thinks so:

"This was a successful campaigns that stands out because it ran in the mid-70s. Wrigley's brand has a heritage and that is why such a resurrection was possible. In 1960, the company had profits of $10.3 million—or 7 cents a share—on sales of $100.5 million, and it sold gum in only a few dozen markets. Today, the Wrigley's company has profits of $305.5 million—or $2.63 a share—on sales of 2.02 billion, and has a presence in more than 140 countries."

The most famous comeback ad, however, has to be the Ferrero-Rocher "Ambassador Party" campaign How we love to hate it and yet the phrase "Oh, but Mr. Ambassador, you are spoiling us" has successfully entered the vernacular. The "Ambassador Party" spot has aired frequently and has been an old favorite for more than a decade.

Sheer laziness? Lack of cash or retro appeal? According to creative director Mark Whalen, "the whole retro concept makes me think of Ferrero Rocher. If it worked for Wrigley's it can work for others."

In the Philippines, where ad campaigns have a lifespan of six to 12 months, we have not seen brands which resurrected their creative campaigns over the last 10 or 15 years. Although most brands followed the same strategic thinking, none of them revived their advertising efforts lock, stock and barrel.

Learn ways for SMEs to outshine competition

ARE you a small or medium-scale entrepreneur yearning for maximum marketing and promotions results from minimal resources?

Whether you are a franchise venture owner gunning for a higher response rate for your product or service, or an executive looking for strategies you can use to gain competitive edge, it often pays to hear out specialists who can guide you to obtaining a clear marketing advantage.

Brad Geiser, chief strategic and research consultant of Geiser Maclang Communications, Inc. (GMCI) will deliver a talk on "Market Research and PR: Big Business Weapons for Small- and Medium-Sized Entrepreneurs" today at 4 pm at the exhibition stage area of the 2nd Filipino Franchise Show at SM Megamall.

He will expound on how small businesses can take advantage of public relations and market research, and compete with big companies.

Geiser will tackle how to wield PR as an essential tool or weapon for brand development, and enable a company to get more than a bite-size share of the market.

Geiser has been consulting for Philippine businesses since the late '90s, and has shown an understanding of the workings of varied industries. With his exposure and expertise in market research, he is able to easily grasp market nuances and formulate projects yielding maximum results but entailing minimal costs.

GMCI specializes in creating customized marketing solutions to meet the unique needs of companies on the rise. For more info call 890-1423-24, or 0917-894GMCI.

Singapore launches campaign on conventions

SINGAPORE'S exhibition and convention industry unveiled a $6-million promotional campaign designed to invigorate the hard-hit sector in the wake of the recent SARS crisis. The campaign is spearheaded by the Singapore Association of Convention and Exhibition Organizers and Suppliers (SACEOS) and is expected to reach Asia, Europe and the United States.

The objective of the campaign is to attract Asian businesses to use Singapore's exhibition and convention industry as an international platform to network and trade.

The investment will be used to facilitate a comprehensive global promotion campaign and a series of trade missions to key business markets in Asia, Europe and the United States.

Dilys Yong Mee Hiong, SACEOS president, says that the Asian and Singapore exhibition and convention sector as a whole has the capacity to host a lot more events.

"We are inviting Asian businesses to continue to use our exhibitions and conventions sector because it is the best marketing platform for deals and ideas. This is particularly the case when new business opportunities are more of a challenge because of the current global economic slowdown," said Yong Mee Hiong.

One activity of the campaign is to commission a research study to assess international opinion regarding Singapore as a MICE (Meeting, Incentive Travel, Convention and Exhibition) destination.

It is our responsibility to serve you better.

You will be pleased to know that we have successfully linked our databases, making it possible to accomplish inter-branch transactions through our network.

And because the GSIS is now ONE integrated system, we have finally completed the first phase of a processing environment that will allow us to transact with you anytime, anywhere.

But to achieve a fully operational and integrated environment, we need to move on to the second phase of our project where we will:

- upgrade computer hardware and install new software programs
- overhaul systems and procedures
- reconcile manual and computer data
- update premium contributions file
- post all loan re-payments

While doing this, WE WILL BE INCURRING DELAYS IN THE PROCESSING OF CLAIMS and LOANS.

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Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING FIRM

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM is inviting Architectural and Engineering Design Firms to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Architectural and Engineering Design, Space Planning, Interior Design, Site Development and Landscaping Design Services including Soil Boring Test, relative to the proposed construction of SSS Cebu Branch office Building.

Approved Budget for the Contract	P3,380,000.00
Contract Duration:	
Schematic Design Phase Design Development Phase Contract Document Phase	60 Calendar Days
Construction Phase	540 Calendar Days
Source of Funding	Capital Expenditures Building Construction

Prospective Architectural and Engineering Design Firms should have ten (10) years of experience on projects that are similar in nature to the contract to the bid.

The criteria to be used in the short-listing of consultants and evaluation of bids shall be in accordance with the IRR of Executive Order No. 40 and NEDA Guidelines for the Procurement of Consulting Services.

The detailed evaluation of bids shall be based on the quality-based procedure.

Interested bidders must secure the Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City starting **July 25, 2003** to **August 07, 2003**. Only the eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 to cover the cost of the bidding documents. For any inquiry, please call telephone number 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents is on **12 August 2003**.

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - July 25, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Baguio City

INVITATION TO BID

The Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center invites all DOH-Manila accredited suppliers for Drugs and Medicines, Hospital Medical, Dental, Surgical, Laboratory, X-ray reagents and supplies to bid for the same at the Cobalt Building, BGHMC Auditorium, Baguio City.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 5, 2003**, Tuesday, 10:00 AM at the same venue for any clarifications. Opening of the Bids is scheduled on **August 15, 2003**, Friday, at exactly 2:00 PM at the same venue. Late Bidders shall be disqualified.

Instruction to Bidders (BAC FORM A) and Official Bid Tender Form (BAC FORM B) can be availed of at the office of the Chief, Medical Professional Staff c/o Mrs. MA. TERESA C. FAJARDO, after payment in cash of P400.00 at the Cashier's Office at the main hospital building, from **July 21, 2003 to August 5, 2003** from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The BAC shall award the contracts to suppliers with the lowest qualifying bids. The BGHMC reserves the right to waive any minor deviations in the bid tender documents which do not affect the substance and validity of the bids and reserves the right to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

Request or appeals for consideration will be entertained within seven (7) working days from posting of the winning bidders and may be submitted to the BAC Secretariat, Mrs. MA. TERESA C. FAJARDO, BGHMC, for BAC review, and will be decided on within seven (7) working days from receipt. The decision of the BAC is final.

Inquiries may be made with the BAC Secretariat, Mrs. Ma. Teresa C. Fajardo at 442-6230.

(Sgd.) MANUEL V. FACTORA, M.D., MHA
Medical Center Chief
BGHMC

(PDI--July 25 & 26, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Tuguegarao
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAGAYAN

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Cagayan (PGC) through the Prequalifications, Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology Resources (PBAC-ITR) hereby invites interested ICT companies and/or systems integrators to pre-qualify and submit sealed bid proposals for the expansion of its Interdepartmental Local Area Network for current Calendar Year 2003, which shall include, among others, the following:

- Active components (i.e. servers, workstations, switches, etc.);
- LAN Cabling and rough-ins;
- Software; and
- Trainings

Interested bidders are required to submit letter of intent and to pre-qualify before securing bid documents. For details of the pre-qualification document and related information, contact telephone number (078) 844-1330 (PPDO).

Bid documents can be obtained at the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO), Capitol Hills, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan starting *August 18, 2003* upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00). Only pre-qualified eligible bidders shall be allowed to obtain bid documents. Issuance will be closed one (1) day before the opening of sealed bids.

A pre-bid conference for eligible bidders will be held on *August 22, 2003* at 1:00 o' clock in the afternoon at the Kammaranan Hall, Capitol Hills, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan; Submission of sealed bid proposals will be allowed up to 12:00 o'clock Noon of the date of the opening of sealed bid proposals. Late bid proposals will be rejected. All sealed bid proposals must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price. Opening of sealed bid proposals shall be on *September 08, 2003* at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the same venue.

The Provincial Government of Cagayan reserves all the rights to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or technicality, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Provincial Government of Cagayan.

The Provincial Government assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder(s) for expenses or losses they may incur in connection to this bidding.

(Sgd.) EDGAR RAMONES LARA
Governor

(PDI–July 25 & Aug. 2, 2003)

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1596 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY TO BID FOR PORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

1. The Philippines has received a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to fund the cost of the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program (the Project). A portion of the proceeds of this grant will be used for the construction of the Mid-Scale Infrastructure Program (MSIP) subprojects for which this Invitation for Prequalification is being issued. The GEM Project Management Office based in Davao City will implement the MSIP subprojects.
2. The MSIP subprojects will be located primarily in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) as well as conflict-affected areas and will include various components in the port, water supply, roads and bridges, irrigation, drainage and flood control, and general civil works categories. Individual contract costs will range in value from PHP 20 million up to PHP 50 million. Total USAID budget allocation for the MSIP subprojects is PHP 750 million (US$15 million).
3. GEM shall tender the works on a unit cost basis under USAID-approved bidding procedures. Bids for the various contract packages will be issued beginning the third quarter of 2003 and tendering will continue in a phased manner through August 2006. The scheduled completion date for all subproject construction is June 30, 2007.
4. Contractors will be prequalified for PORT Improvement category and values of work based on their previous experience and financial capabilities.
5. Prequalification is open to licensed construction firms from the Philippines
6. Only those contractors who have been prequalified for the GEM works will be invited to submit bids for any MSIP subproject. Prequalification will be valid for the entire Project period, although GEM reserves the right to update the list of prequalified contractors from time to time if required, including blacklisting firms with substandard performance.
7. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents at the office of the Chief of Party, Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program, 2/F, 1 Ladislawa Building, Ladislawa Avenue, Buhangin, Davao City 8000, Philippines. Applicants who desire to download the documents from the internet may do so at the following website www.mindanao.org/pqdownloads.
8. Applications for prequalification must be submitted in sealed envelopes. They must be delivered either by hand, courier, or registered mail to the office of the Chief of Party, Attention: Deputy Chief of Party for Contracts, GEM, at 2/F, 1 Ladislawa Building, Ladislawa Avenue, Buhangin, Davao City 8000, Philippines no later than 3:00 p.m. on August 01, 2003, and be clearly marked *"Application to Prequalify for Construction of Mid-Scale Infrastructure Works under Local Competitive Bidding Procedures for the Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program."*
9. GEM reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
10. GEM will advise the applicants of the results of their application in due course. Only firms prequalified under this procedure will be eligible to bid for MSIP subproject contracts.
11. Firms previously prequalified by GEM under the Port Sector need not reapply. Firms who applied for the Port Sector but were disqualified may reapply but only if they provide additional relevant information that will support their prequalification

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to apply for prequalification and to submit sealed bids for the **GROUP HOSPITALIZATION INSURANCE POLICY (HR03-831).**

Only contractors who will comply with PNOC EC's prequalification requirements shall be allowed to participate in the public bidding.

Prequalification and Tender Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Operations Services Group (c/o Mr. Emmanuelito A. Ababol) from **July 25, 2003 to August 4, 2003**, upon presentation of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Five Hundred (PHP500.00).

The bidding shall utilize a two (2) sealed envelope system. The first envelope shall contain the Technical Bid and the second envelope shall contain the Financial Bid. The Technical & Financial Bids shall be submitted in two (2) sets each to the Contracts Secretariat not later than 3:00 P.M. of August 18, 2003 at PNOC EC Conference Room Bldg. 1 of the above address and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a **Pre-bid conference** will be held on August 6, 2003, 3:00 P.M. at the PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1 of the above address.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantagous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website: www.procurementservices.net

(Sgd.) RAFAEL E. DEL PILAR
Vice President and COO

(PDI–July 25, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
Km. 5, J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City, Philippines
Tel. No.: 221-9400 (connecting all departments)
Tel. Nos.: 221-6218 to 19 (Regional Training Center, Madapo Hill, Davao City)
Fax: (82) 226-4885

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) hereby invites all interested Architectural and Engineering Firms that are registered with the Bureau of Domestic Trade for sole proprietorship and with the Securities and Exchange Commission for Corporations and Partnership, engaged in Design for the proposed Conceptual Design, Detailed Design and Supervision for the proposed DCWD Building located at Matina, Davao City.

Item No.	Description	Ceiling Bid Price
1	Conceptual Design	Php 296,950.00
2	Detailed Design	3,000,000.00
3	Supervision	2,000,000.00
	Total	Php 5,296,950.00

Eligibility requirements in Book form are available at the DCWD PEAC c/o The Office of the General Manager starting **July 21, 2003**, during its business hours, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,000.00. Submission of eligibility documents/requirements will start on **July 28, 2003**, and deadline of submission will be on **August 18, 2003.**

Pre-bidding is set on **October 15-17, 2003**, starting on the 15th at 2:00 p.m. for those found eligible and ranked as top 5 short listed Firms; Submission and Opening of Bids on **January 15, 2004** at 9:00 A.M. at the DCWD Regional Training Center, Madapo Hills, Davao City, respectively.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids received and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO
Chairman, Pre-qualification, Evaluation & Awards
Committee for Consultancy (PEACC)

(PDI - July 18 & 25, 2003)

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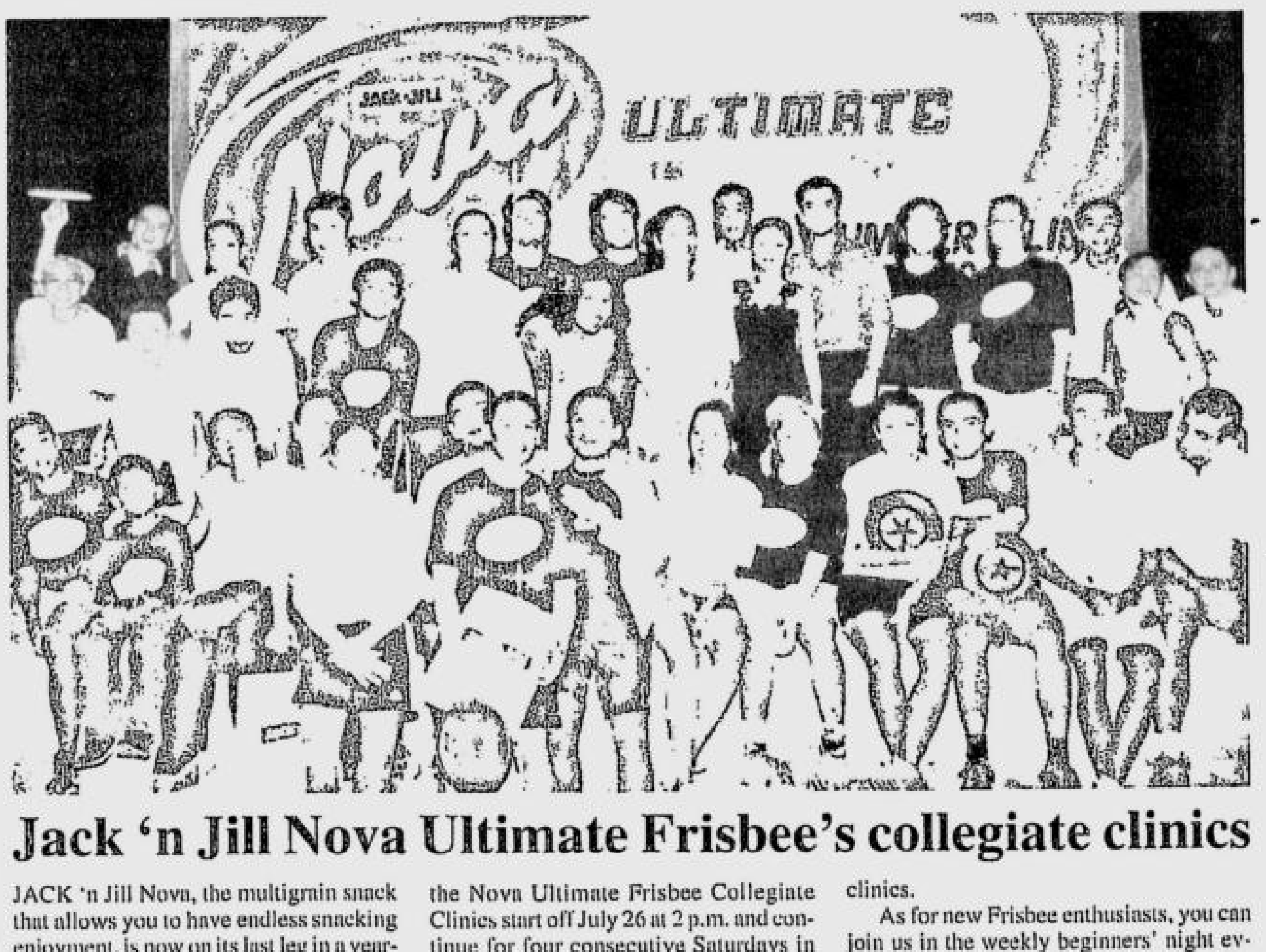

Jack 'n Jill Nova Ultimate Frisbee's collegiate clinics

JACK 'n Jill Nova, the multigrain snack that allows you to have endless snacking enjoyment, is now on its last leg in a year-long series of Ultimate Frisbee activities. After its triumphant kick-off activity in the 1st International Beach Ultimate Tournament in Boracay, and followed by the recently concluded string of summer clinics for avid sports buffs, this new sports craze is now set to go into your college campuses.

Supported by the Philippine Ultimate Association (PUA) and the San Lorenzo Village Park Association in Makati City, the Nova Ultimate Frisbee Collegiate Clinics start off July 26 at 2 p.m. and continue for four consecutive Saturdays in August at the San Lorenzo Village Park in Makati. Join students from Ateneo de Manila University, De la Salle University-Manila, DLSU College of St. Benilde, San Beda College, University of the Philippines, University of Asia and the Pacific, University of Sto. Tomas, Assumption College, Miriam College, and St. Scholastica's College as they learn to strut their stuff in the thrilling game of Frisbee through these collegiate clinics.

As for new Frisbee enthusiasts, you can join us in the weekly beginners' night every Monday starting July 27 at 8 p.m. at the San Lorenzo Village Park.

The fast-paced, exhilarating rounds of training prepare participants for the big event—the 1st Nova Ultimate Frisbee Intercollegiate Tournament from August 22 to 24. So jump into the bandwagon of the Nova Ultimate Frisbee craze, brought to you by Jack 'n Jill Nova, the healthy snack. Have as much as you want! For inquiries, call Wedell or Kit at 373-0611.

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Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

ROMEO DAIRO DE LA CRUZ

January 10, 1935 – July 22, 2003
of El Nido, Palawan

Peacefully rejoined his Creator on July 22, 2003 in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

His bereaved wife, Evangeline Maggay-de la Cruz; his children: Debra Romeline Myra and Henry, Dr. Rossano "Bimbo" and Gretel, Ma. Carmela "Bing" and Elias Jose "Bong" Inciong, Irma Rose "Maius" and Ferdie Marcelo, Romeo Silvestre "Babu" and Minnie, and Virna Leslie Karen "Ningning";

Grandchildren: Noelle Francesca "Ikka", Grachelle Angelei "Gei", Jon Ezra David Ira "Jedi", Jose Miguel "Miggy", Vera Ysabel "Ysa", Jose Alejandro "Alec", Bianca Evangeline Amanda, Alexa Celine Erika, and Joan Elijah

Parents: Silvestre and Manuela †

Brothers and sisters: Joaquin and Gregoria de la Cruz, Pacita and Napoleon Ordonez, Ramiro and Leticia de la Cruz, Juliet † and Romeo Morata, Tommy and Ester † de la Cruz, Shirley and Rogelio † Coronado, and Selma and Manny

Brothers-and sisters-in-law, cousins, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request those who have known him to pray for his eternal peace.

His body lies in state at Funeraria Sampaton, Puerto Princesa City and will be transfered to El Nido Palawan on July 26, 2003. Interment will be on July 31, 2003 after the 8:30 a.m. necrological services.

"we will keep you close as always,
it won't even seem you've gone,
because our hearts, in big and small ways,
will keep the love that makes us strong"

In Loving Memory

on the First Death Anniversary
of our Dearly Beloved

Atty. Daisy G. Zambrano
"Tita Ganda"

28 December 1948 - 25 July 2002

A memorial service in celebration of the life once shared with her will be held on Saturday, July 26, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the Court of Meditation, Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

She lives on in our hearts.

THE ZAMBRANO FAMILY

IN MEMORIAM

Affectionately remembering on the
First Anniversary of the death of our dearly beloved

BELEN VILLALUZ RAMORES

03 January 1914 - 25 July 2002
of Labo, Camarines Norte

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following churches:

St. John the Apostle Parish Church, Labo, Camarines Norte 6:00 am
St. John the Baptist Parish Church, Daet, Camarines Norte 6:00 am
Most Holy Trinity Cathedral, Daet, Camarines Norte 5:30pm
Sacred Heart Parish Church, Kamuning, Quezon City 6:00am
Jesus Lord of The Divine Mercy Parish Church, Novaliches, Quezon City 7:30pm

Our many thanks to all who keep her in their memory.

Peping and **Vilma**, **Binang**, **Titap** and **Rudy**,
July and **Bing**, **Epoy** and **Lolit**, **Teddy** and **Ruby**

"Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God, I will strengthen you, and help you, and uphold you my right hand of Justice. Yes, all shall be put to shame and disgrace who vent their anger against you; Those shall perish and come to nought who offer resistance. You shall seek out, but shall not find, those who strive against you; They shall be as nothing at all who do battle with you..." ***Isaiah 41:10-12***

"For near is the day of the Lord for all the nations! As you have done, so shall it be done to you, your deed shall come back upon your own head..." ***Obadiah 15***

THE ENRIQUEZ FAMILIES

Mourn the death of

MARK JAMES ENRIQUEZ y SARINO

Who died in Perpetual Succour, Cebu City on July 21, 2003 at the age of 19.

Mark James Enriquez was born on January 26, 1984 in Carmen, Cebu, raised by his Mama Imelda S. Enriquez with great love and affection only a perfect mother could give. Mark was studying in Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Intramuros, Manila before he transferred to Cebu City and studied in University of San Carlos.

Mark was well known for being joyful, compassionate, peace loving and very sweet to all his friends and relatives. He was a student who stood for his belief against violence and fraternity gang war within his school and community or even being a member of any fraternity. The night of July 18, 2003, he was viciously shot by the fraternity gang members of ALPHA KAPHA RHO (AKHRO) in Cebu City for the reason that he was mistakenly identified as a member of TAU GAMMA PHI Fraternity in which he never affiliated to. He was brutally shot point blank in the head, leaving him no chance to survive from the ruthless criminals who are members of the so-called AKHRO Fraternity.

We, the family of Mark James are all seeking for JUSTICE for this senseless killing!!!

Mark James' wake is presently at Cogon East, Carmen, Cebu and will be transferred in Manila on Friday, July 25 at Arlington Memorial, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. The mass will be held in Eternal Garden Chapel on Sunday at 3:00 p.m., the burial will follow afterwards.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE AND HAVE JUSTICE.

"The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord show His countenance to you."

Cesar B. Sunico

Died peacefully on July 13, 2003
in New Jersey, USA at the age of 69 years.

His bereaved wife **Edna Lou**; children **Mary Rae** and **Brian**; **Jo Anne**; **Karen** and **Steve**; and **David**; mother-in-law **Eleanor Wodell**; grandchildren **Noelle**, **Katelyn** and **Stephen**; his brother, sisters and in-laws, **Tito** and **Laura**, **Sharon**; **Pilar** and **Augie**; **Ditas** and **Jess**; **Nenita** and **Boy**; **Presy** and **Fred**; and **Connie**; relatives and friends entrust him to Our Lord's loving care.

His ashes will be brought tomorrow, Saturday, to the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills. The Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, July 27, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. to be followed by the interment at the Manila Memorial Park.

Please omit flowers.

"Let
the
words
of my
mouth
meet
your
Favor,
keep
the
thoughts
of my
heart
before
you,
Lord,
my rock,
my
redeemer...

Psalm 21:15

JOAQUIN G. PANAPIO SR.

of Mabini, Batangas

joined his Creator last July 20, 2003 at the age of 74.

He was the former prexy of ASAPHIL UMPIRES ASSN. and umpire consultant of LITTLE LEAGUE PHILS. His remains lie in state at the family residence in Mabini, Batangas. Interment will be on Saturday, July 26, 2003.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
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Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
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EDMUNDO P. FUENTEBELLA, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on July 21, 2003

He is survived by his mother **Teofila P. Fuentebella**; children **Rita Mae** and **Rommel**, **Edmundo** and **Jocelyn**, **Pamela** and **Salvador**; grandchildren **Jennifer**, **Michael**, **Richard**, **Joy**, **Carl Anthony**, **Angelo**, **Yvonne**, **Jeric Nicole** and **Jaybie**; brother and sisters **Antonio**, **Sylvia**, **Sonia**, **Diana**, **Lilia**, **Anita** and **Eva**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel along Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 26, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

JOHN GLENN McCALLON

(Major Retired U.S. Army)

Died peacefully on July 21, 2003
at the age of 48.

His loving wife **Marianita (Aringgo)**; children **Rachelle** and **Michael**; father **James**; mother **Josephine** and sister **Mary** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Bethany Chapel, Rizal Funeral Homes, 438 Cementina St., Pasay City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, July 27, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park Crematorium, Baesa, Quezon City.

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wish to express their deepest sympathy
and condolence to the family of

Gracia G. Tantoco

Beloved Mother of its Chairman, Msgr. Francisco Tantoco
on her untimely demise.

Her body lies in state at Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, Q.C. Interment will be on Saturday, July 26, 2003 at La Loma Cemetery, Caloocan City after the celebration of the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Francisco, Sr. and Gracia Tantoco Scholarship Fund c/o CARITAS, Manila will be appreciated.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Estela M. Peñaflorida

who passed away on 26 July 1995

Masses will be offered Saturday, 26 July 2003 at the following:

Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	12:15 noon
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills	7:15 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Magallanes	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Beautiful Love, Marville	6:00 p.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, U.P.	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph's Church, Pototan, Iloilo	5:30 a.m.
St. Clement's Church, La Paz, Iloilo	5:30 p.m.

The family requests relatives, friends, and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

We, the family of the late

CARMELITA ARAULLO ADAPON

Peacefully joined our Lord
on July 22, 2003 at the age of 55.

Her husband **Rolando**; children **Tina & Alex**, **Rafael**, **Romulo & Patricia**; and her grandson **Karel**, together with her sisters and brothers request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeral Nacional, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 27, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Holy Cross Memorial, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Our Dearly Beloved

SIMEON MUÑOZ PRIETO SR.

of Legazpi City

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 23, 2003
at the age of 79.

His loving wife **Josie**; children **Nene** and **Boy**, **Sonny** and **Jane**, **Tess**, **Cathy** and **Henry**, **Bebut**, **Christy** and **Boy**, **Lito** and **Delia**; grandchildren **Lisa & Efren**, **Elvin & Fe**, **Golbert**, **Hazel & Joebert**, **Jun^2**, **Irene**, **Elaine**, **Chris**, **Alex**, **Toffer**, **Lance**, **Patrick**, **Gerald**, **Michele**, **Jaye & Mahra**, **Mark**, **JC**; great grandchildren **Paul, Jr.**, **Stefanie**, **Diane**, **Hans**, **Janell**, **Paulo**, **Sean & Joshua**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at St. Raphael Mortuary Chapel, Legazpi City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 29, 2003 at Bicol Memorial Park, Legazpi City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

When bells for us are rung
And our last "taps" is sung
Let generations see
Our country free....

P/CSUPT ROMULO DAYAO SALES

Regional Director, Police Regional Office-2
PMA "Masigasig" Class of 1972

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 15, 2003 at the age of 54.

His bereaved wife, **Alicia**; children **Romulo Marco**, **Rommel Andreo**, and **Anna Carrisa**; parents **Ceviro Dayao Sr.** (†) and **Adelfa Dayao**; brothers and sisters, **Ceviro Jr.** and wife **Nimfa**, **Samuel** and wife **Kharee**, **Easter** and husband **Rico**, **Eva** (†) and husband **Jonas**, **Cesar** and wife **Judith**, **Adela** and husband **Manny**, **Alex** and wife **Nona**, nephews and nieces, relatives friends and classmates request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Necrological Services will be held on July 25, 2003 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening at the Multi-Purpose Center, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 26, 2003 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City after the 9:00 am Mass.

You will keep in perfect peace him who trusts in you. **Isaiah 26:3**

Jo Soliongco

Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Friend
(February 17, 1925 – July 24, 2003)

has left to join her husband, **I. P. Soliongco**, and rest with him in the presence of the Creator.

Her family, **Tita** and **Claro**, **Celina**, **Kiko**, **Camille**, and **Bala**, grieve her departure, but rejoice that she is now in perfect peace with the Lord, whom she trusted most.

Her remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose Parish Hall, Greenhills.

A funeral mass will be held on 8:00 am, Sunday, July 27, 2003. Interment will directly follow at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

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HIGHER RATES

Power crisis in Cebu averted

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A POSSIBLE power crisis in Cebu was averted after Cebu Private Power Corp. (CPPC), an independent power producer, suspended indefinitely its plan to shut down operations, according to the Energy Regulatory Commission.

ERC Chair Manuel Sanchez said in an interview that CPPC officials made the decision in a meeting with ERC yesterday.

CPPC had said it would suspend its operations as it was no longer able to recover its costs due to low electricity rates. It made the threat in June but decided to defer the plan by 40 days, ending July 25, when the ERC stepped in for dialogue.

"CPPC said the National Power Corp.'s move to implement its new rates—including higher levels in the Visayas power grid—gave it hope to improve its finances," Sanchez said.

The official said CPPC was allowed to adjust its rates to as much as 98 percent of Napocor's charge.

In May, the ERC ordered Napocor to implement an increase of 16 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

"This would help CPPC and Visayan Electric Co. (or Veco, the utility that gets its supply from CPPC) to come up with a new agreement," Sanchez added.

Veco is the second-largest power distributor in the country. It serves Metropolitan Cebu, including the towns of Consolacion, Liloan, Talisay, Minglanilla, Naga and San Fernando.

Earlier this month, a top energy official said electricity consumers in the Visayas had to accept the need to pay more "or face the more expensive problem of a power crisis."

The official, who asked not to be named, said: "The choices in the next few months will be either to pay for slightly higher prices for electricity that would actually serve the people or to have no electricity at all."

He said consumers must understand that electricity was not free and that if people wanted a stable and adequate supply, investors must be convinced that they would achieve reasonable rates of return. "Somebody has to pay for that."

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Developing countries form trade alliance

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINES and Indonesia have spearheaded the formation of a new alliance of developing countries that would push for trade reforms in the Fifth Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization in September.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Segfredo Serrano Jr., the country's agriculture trade negotiator in Geneva, Switzerland, said in an interview that the country had prepared a statement of declaration that will bind 16 developing countries into this alliance. The statement will be read before members of the WTO committee on agriculture.

The members of the alliance are Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Turkey, Uganda, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, and the Philippines. The statement of declaration will embody the new alliance's aspiration to level the playing field in farm trade among developed and developing countries and to obtain a fair and equitable deal under WTO rules.

One of the main issues that will be brought about by the new bloc are those concerning special products (SPs) and the implementation of special safeguard measures (SSMs) against cheap imported farm goods, which continued to flood the alliance members' local markets due to trade liberalization.

Serrano said the provisions on SPs and SSM would serve as mechanisms that could be applied by developing countries to ensure their competitiveness in the face of the developed countries' refusal to eliminate their domestic and export subsidies and other non-tariff barriers.

Developed countries such as the United States and the European Union (EU) insisted on implementing further tariff reductions without committing reductions in their own domestic and export subsidies.

A study by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) showed that the EU provided $114.5 billion in farm subsidies in 1999 while the US extended $54 billion in producer support.

Agricultural products designated as SPs are not subject to deeper tariff cuts. Once member countries of the WTO agree on including the SP provision in the draft modality, agricultural products under the Philippines' sensitive list will be considered for inclusion in the SPs.

Industries get big boost from tariff review

By Michelle V. Remo

THE FEDERATION of Philippine Industries has renewed its criticism of the reduction of tariff rates to levels much lower than those imposed by neighboring countries.

The group said the tariff reduction contributed significantly to the local industries' financial woes and the resulting displacement of workers. It also said the government's "hasty" reduction of tariffs without lowering business costs—such as electricity and interest rates—rendered local industries uncompetitive."

"There was no reason at all to reduce tariff rates to very low levels except to show off machismo. Neither the WTO nor the Asean required us to reduce tariffs to very low levels," said FPI secretary general Joseph Francia in an interview.

Francia said the country's 10-percent tariff on glass imports was much lower than China's 60 percent, Malaysia's 40 percent and Thailand's 20 percent.

The glass industry is suffering from the influx of cheap imports, mostly coming from China, because of the very low tariffs here," said Francia. He said Asahi Glass Philippines Inc., the country's sole glass manufacturer, had laid off workers due to stiff foreign competition.

FPI said it was willing to welcome a further reduction of tariffs—even to zero level—if power rates, which is the second highest in the region, and other business costs were lowered to match those in other countries.

It was a lot easier for the government to lower tariff rates than reduce electricity cost and curb smuggling. The average 5-percent lending rate here is higher than those in other countries, such as Japan's 2 percent," he said.

The statement was made following the Department of Trade and Industry's pronouncements that it would conduct a review of the country's tariff rates for possible realignment.

The DTI said it would begin private sector consultations and gathering of position papers from local industries in August to determine the priorities in the realignment of tariff rates. The government has also expressed intention to slow down on its liberalization commitments to the World Trade Organization.

FPI asked the government to prioritize output products, or those that directly compete with the products of local industries. Francia said tariffs should be lowered on input products such as raw materials and equipment.

ENTERTAINMENT
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

'Kabayan' not running for president or leaving ABS, says daughter

KATHERINE de Castro

By Marinel R. Cruz

"MY father (Sen. Noli de Castro) is neither running for president nor leaving his show on ABS-CBN."

Katherine de Castro, the second of the three children of the senator-broadcaster and broadcast journalist Arlene Sinsuat was reacting to reports that his father, a first-term senator, will run for president in the 2004 elections. She is also denying rumors that the senator, host of the long-running news and public affairs program, "Magandang Gabi Bayan" on ABS-CBN, would be transferring to rival network GMA 7.

De Castro won the highest number of votes for a senator in the 2001 elections.

"Despite his lead in recent surveys, he said he still has a lot to learn," his daughter said. "He is not the type who would easily feel pressured to do what other people say."

Katherine is a news reporter on "TV Patrol" and is one of the hosts of the early-morning magazine show "Magandang Umaga, Bayan."

A nationwide survey conducted by Pulse Asia from March 29 to April 12 showed De Castro dislodging former education secretary Raul Roco as the top choice if the May 2004 presidential elections were to be held today. Twenty percent of the 1,200 respondents said they would vote for De Castro, while 18 percent named Roco, a lawyer and former senator.

Katherine also said her father refused to get involved in the reported "power struggle" involving ABS-CBN's news and public affairs head Dong Puno and De Castro's wife Arlene, who is Puno's executive vice president.

The rift reportedly started when ABS-CBN hired Puno to head the news and public affairs department. Arlene allegedly felt bypassed.

"My family has been with ABS-CBN for more than a decade now," said Katherine on Monday. "Our loyalty remains with the network.

"I personally don't know where the news of a power struggle is coming from," she added.

News of her father's reported transfer to GMA 7 came out while he and his wife were on a two-week vacation in the United States.

"There have always been offers for him to transfer to other stations, but he would always say no to it," added Katherine.

De Castro is expected to go back to work at the Senate on July 28, she said.

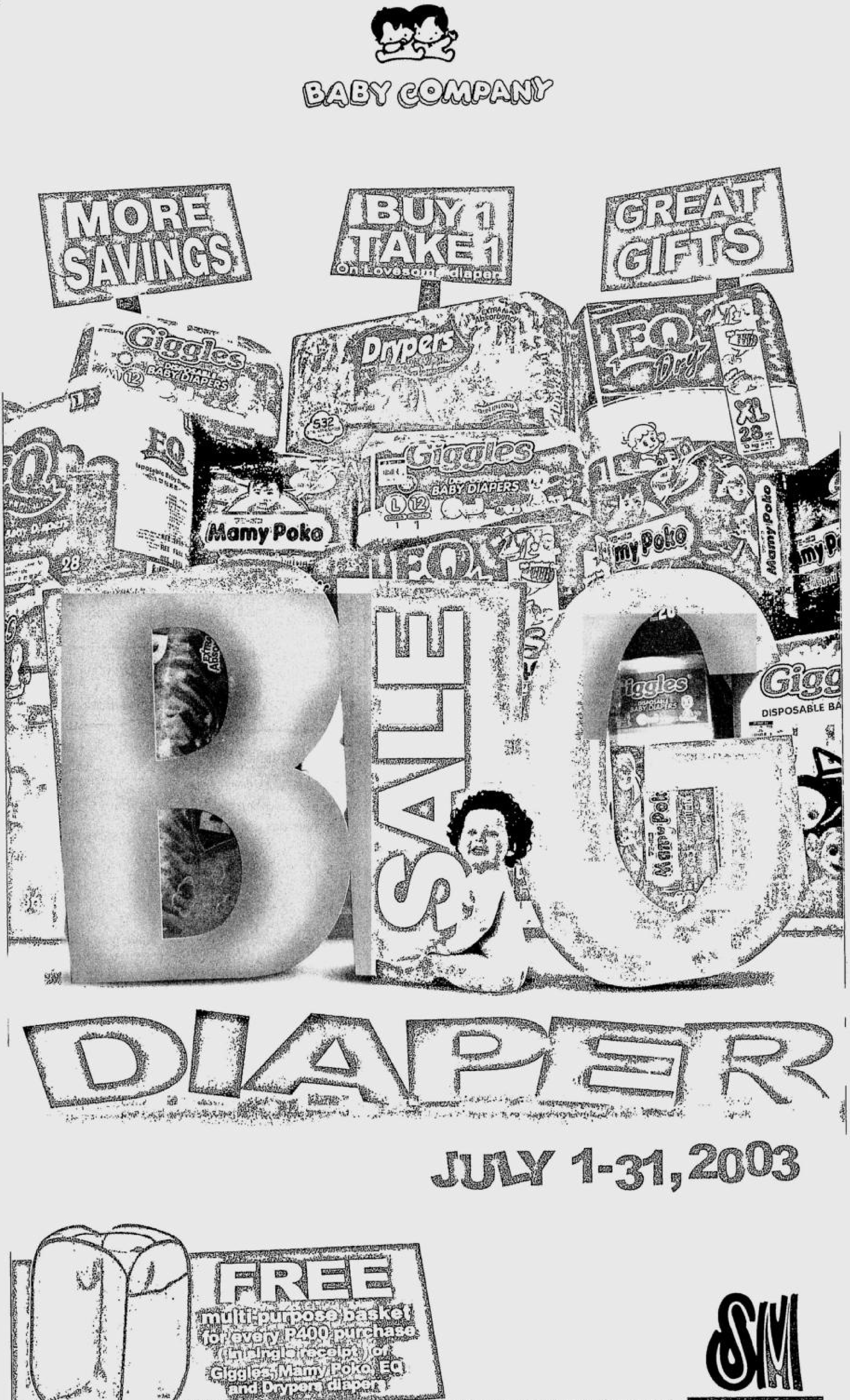
DE CASTRO campaigning in '01. He's not biting, says his daughter.

DID YOU KNOW...

Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) Chair **Consoliza Laguardia** had a night out with her board members recently at Quattro along Timog Avenue in Quezon City, a few steps away from the MTRCB office at the President's Tower, on the same avenue. Censors **Joey Romero, Mario Hernando, Butch Bautista** and vice chair **Jackie Aquino** drank beer and Fundador, but Laguardia only had Coke. The censors chief is a huge fan of young love team **John Lloyd Cruz** and **Bea Alonzo** on the ABS-CBN soap, "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay." During a visit to the network recently, Laguardia suggested to programming executives to alter the script of the drama series so that John Lloyd would cease to be a *contravida.*

ILAGAN JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Liberty Ilagan defies National Artist /C5



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2	MASAMANG UGAT
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4 (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER-2
5	WILD BUTTERFLY
6 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER-2
7 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3
8	
9	

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1	MASAMANG UGAT
2 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
3 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER-2
4 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER-2
5	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	MASAMANG UGAT
2	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3
4	WILD BUTTERFLY
5 (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER-2

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MASAMANG UGAT

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	TERMINATOR-3

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
Lords	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	TOMB RAIDER-2
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
4	WILD BUTTERFLY

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto

SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	TOMB RADER-2
2	TERMINATOR-3
3	-
4	MASAMANG UGAT
5	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	TOMB RADER-2
2	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATOR 3
4 (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
6	BANGKOK HANUTED
7	DEATH WATCH

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DTS)	TOMB RADER-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TERMINATOR-3
2 (DTS)	TOMB RADER-2
3 (DOLBY)	TOMB RADER-2
4	JACKASS THE MOVIE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	JACKASS THE MOVIE
2 (DOLBY)	TOMB RADER-2
3 (DTS)	TOMB RADER-2
4	TERMINATOR-3

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	DUMB & DUMBERER
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	DEATH WATCH
2	THE HUNTED
3 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
4 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
2 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	THE HUNTED

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MASAMANG UGAT
2	-
3 (DTS)	WILD BUTTERFLY
4	TOMB RAIDER-2

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DTS)	JACKASS THE MOVIE
4	TOMB RAIDER-2
5	

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	TOMB RAIDER-2
3	

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	TOMB RAIDER-2
3	

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	MUNTING TINIG
2	THE HUNTED
3 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	THE HUNTED
2	-
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BIGAY HILIG
2	IMPOSTOR
3	DOWN WITH LOVE
4	TERMINATOR-3

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TOMB RAIDER-2
2	28 DAYS LATER
3 (DTS ES)	TOMB RAIDER-2
4	MASAMANG UGAT

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	MASAMANG UGAT
2	DUMB AND DUMBERER
3 (DOLBY)	THE HUNTED
4 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3

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ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA

Level 4

Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang

Tel. 85035-71 to 72

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NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173888

1	WILD BUTTERFLY
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4	MASAMANG UGAT
5	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
8	LIZZIE MCGUIRE

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	IMPOSTOR
3	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4	MASAMANG UGAT
5	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8	WILD BUTTERFLY
9	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
10	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	IMPOSTOR
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 3
4	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
7	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8	TERMINATOR 3
9	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
10	WILD BUTTERFLY
11	DOWN WITH LOVE
12	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
8	THE HUNTED
9	BANGKOK HAUNTED
10	WILD BUTTERFLY
11	DOWN WITH LOVE
12	MASAMANG UGAT

SM MEGAMALL

6331801 • 6329401

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	DOWN WITH LOVE
6	IMPOSTOR
7	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
8	THE HUNTED
9	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
10	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11	BANGKOK HAUNTED
12	WILD BUTTERFLY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	DOWN WITH LOVE
2	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3	BANGKOK HAUNTED
4	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
5	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8	TERMINATOR 3

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1	BANGKOK HAUNTED
2	IMPOSTOR
3	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6	WILD BUTTERFLY
7	TERMINATOR 3
8	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
9	MASAMANG UGAT
10	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	WILLARD
4	JACKASS
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	MASAMANG UGAT
7	TERMINATOR 3
8	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2	RESERVED
3	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4	28 DAYS LATER
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7	RESERVED
8	THE HOURS

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3	JACKASS
4	MASAMANG UGAT
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1	MASAMANG UGAT
2	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4	TERMINATOR 3

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	MUNTING TINIG
5	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
6	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	THE HUNTED
3	28 DAYS LATER
4	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE 12:15 FS/12:45 MF/3:10/5:35/8:00/ 9:55 LFS/10:25 LMF/12:20 END
2	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE 10:35 FS/11:05 MF/1:20/3:45/6:10/8:35/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

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THX	TOMB RAIDER 10:25, 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4	TOMB RAIDER 2
5	TOMB RAIDER 2
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
8	BANGKOK HAUNTED
9	IMPOSTOR
10	JACKASS THE MOVIE

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Ermita

536 -7809- 12

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	DOWN WITH LOVE
4	TOMB RAIDER
5	BANGKOK HAUNTED
6	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
7	TOMB RAIDER

Metro East -

Marcos hway

682-8193
682-8199
682-8280

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	TOMB RAIDER
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	DOWN WITH LOVE
6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
7	TOMB RAIDER 2
8	SABIK

Novaliches

935-3229-31

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	SABIK
3	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4	DOWN WITH LOVE
5	TOMB RAIDER 2
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	WILD BUTTERFLY
8	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Malabon

Citisquare

288-0985 / 288-2575

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	SABIK

Star Mills-

Sn. Fernando, Pamp.

(045)875-1927
(045)961-5270

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	JACKASS
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	SHADOW OF VAMPIRE
6	TOMB RAIDER

Imus

(046) 471-8188
(046) 875-3838

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	WILD BUTTERFLY
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6	SABIK

Sta. Rosa

Laguna

(049)837-0907

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	JACKASS
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	TOMB RAIDER

Bacolod

(034) 441-0453
(034) 441-0458-59

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	PIGLET BIG MOVIE
3	IMPOSTOR
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	DANCER IN THE DARK
6	TUMITIBOK...KUMIKIROT

Iloilo

(033) 336-8070/78

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	28 DAYS LATER
3	BABAE SA VIP ROOMS
4	TOMB RAIDER
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	THE HOURS

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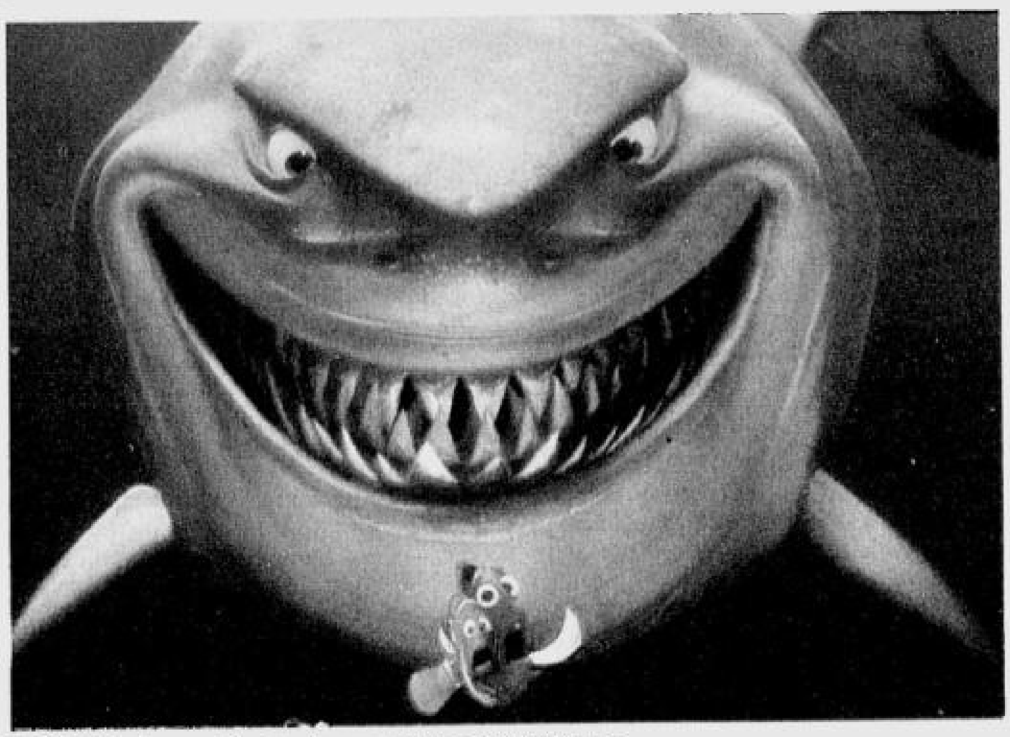


ROUSING all-ages tale about perseverance and letting go

'Finding' a fantastic fish tale

Disney's 'Finding Nemo' makes for colorful, kinetic fun for all ages

By Ruel S. De Vera

REVIEW

"WHOA, dude!" That's Crush the Sea Turtle talking, not Keanu, mind you. That's how most viewers should react to Disney/Pixar's "Finding Nemo," a rousing all-ages tale about letting go and perseverance in the face of adversity that's anything but fishy.

All right, enough of the bad puns. The age-defying success of "Monsters, Inc." and Oscar victory of the Pixar short "For the Birds" proved that CGI can be harnessed to produce more substantial results than the eye-popping blah of "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within." Disney once again joins forces with Pixar and Executive Producer John Lasseter to come up with something totally new: a rite of passage tale told from under the sea. Yes, that was another bad Disney pun-and there will be more fish puns in this article, be warned.

There are however no such bad puns in "Finding Nemo," the labor of love from director/writer and voice talent (more on that later) Andrew Stanton. Inspired by a visit to an aquatic park, Stanton eventually thought up this story of an overly cautious father's quest to save his son. The rite of passage in this movie, you see, is for the father, not the son. No, this isn't "The Lion King Underwater."

That's because this particular father is no lion, maybe unless you count the Cowardly Lion of Oz fame. After losing the rest of his family to a vicious Barracuda attack in Australia's Great Barrier Reef, clownfish Marlin (voiced by the great Albert Brooks) has become overprotective of his only son Nemo (Alexander Gould) to the point of suffocating the youngster's growth. After a human diver catches Nemo, the distraught Marlin must overcome his own fears to rescue his young offspring. It's not going to be easy as he doesn't even know where to begin.

Marlin's only companion? A very forgetful Bluefish named Dory (voiced by a very effective Ellen DeGeneres). Together, the two brave a shark with an identity crisis, a forest of deadly jellyfish and a frightening Anglerfish, among others, just to be able to stay on the trail of Nemo. There's also the matter of trust for a clownfish scarred by personal loss. Marlin just hopes he won't lose the only family he has left.

Speaking of Nemo, the young fish finds himself stranded high but not dry in a Sydney dentist's aquarium where he faces the fate of death at the hands of the dentist's fish-killing niece Darla. To get back to the sea, Nemo must rely on the help of the other fish in the tank, led by the grizzled Gill (Willem Dafoe).

Audiences will have no problem following the plot as "Finding Nemo" boasts of a spare, straightforward story that's bolstered by great vocal performances by the cast and fantastic animation from the Pixar team.

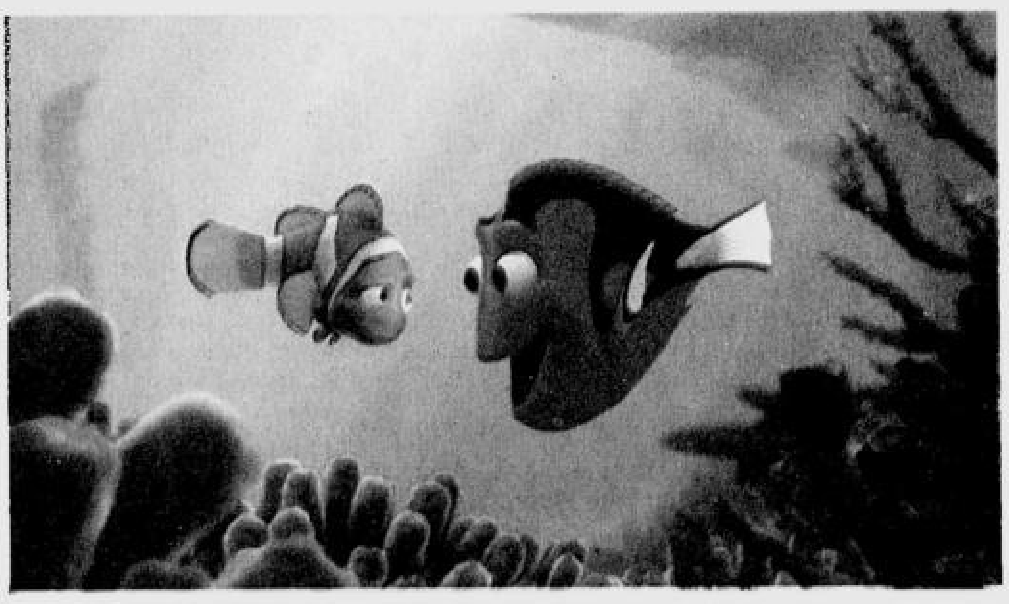
Everything in the movie looks so real and is in constant motion–from the seaweed underwater to the very waves of light on the ocean floors. The depths actually become murkier away from the camera and the currents almost become visible. The Pixar team successfully recreates a Disney-style underwater environment that's not only believable but cute as well. It's like watching a pretty movie while immersed in a swimming pool. And just to show you they have more tricks up their sleeves, the Pixar team uses different effects for the underwater scenes from the dentist's aquarium. Readers will be surprised just how threatening a harmless aquarium filter can look from up close. All this is matched by the bounding enthusiasm of veteran Thomas Newman's score.

You won't need to be an ichthyologist to be hooked by the look of "Finding Nemo." The movie's crowd-pleasing designs go beyond just the lush background. Nemo in particular appears to be a particularly inspired design. Every single fish has personality–and that's just for looks. Wait till you hear what comes out of their mouths.

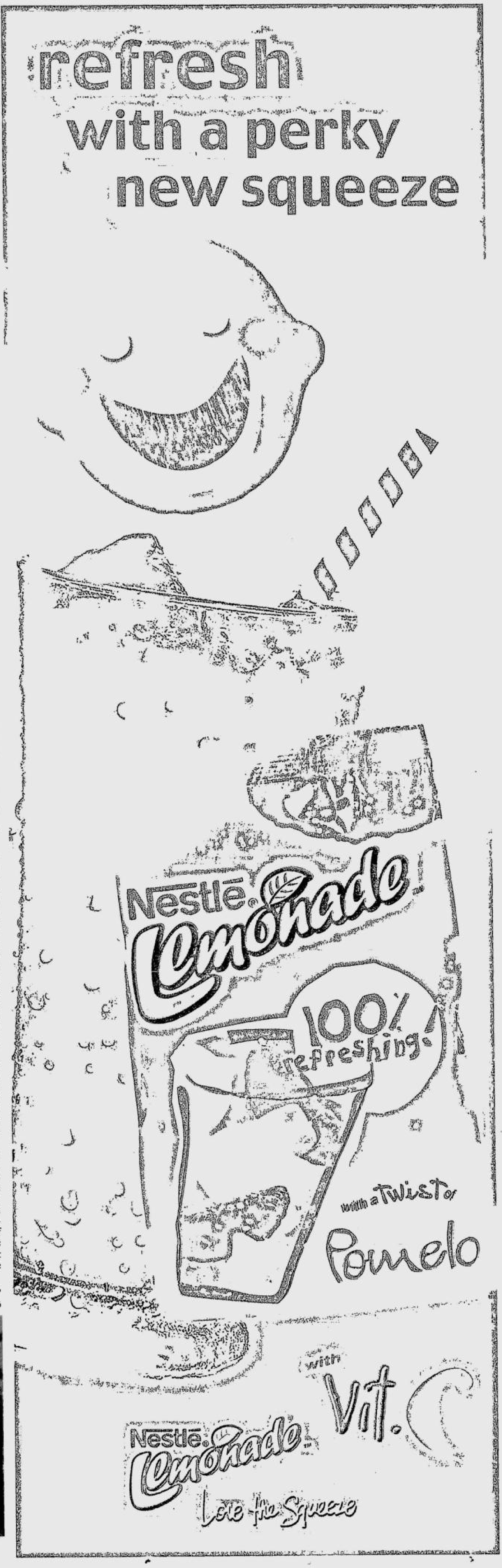
As with other Disney/Pixar collaborations, "Finding Nemo" features an impressive cast, one so solid that talents such as Oscar-winning Geoffrey Rush and "The Incredible Hulk's" Eric Bana are relegated to the relatively small roles of the helpful pelican Nigel and the Aussie hammerhead shark Anchor, respectively. The Brooks/DeGeneres tandem of Marlin and Dory are great fun and Gould's pitch-perfect portrayal of a scared but defiant youngster as Nemo is so efficient its texture almost goes unnoticed.

But the real scene-stealer in the movie is,

FINDING/ C6



TOGETHER, they brave a shark with an identity crisis.



Lose-lose situation

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE LOCAL TV scene is fraught with many problems and deficiencies these days, a sign that network bosses and watchdog groups are sleeping on the job. One increasingly festering problem is the decision of some newscasters and hosts of public affairs shows to agree to do product endorsements.

Since so many name broadcast journalists are succumbing to this "sideline," its promise of big bucks, it's time to disabuse them of the notion that what they're doing is ok.

It isn't and here's why:

Unlike entertainers, journalists succeed or fail on point of objectivity and credibility. They are supposed to be focused on serving the public by providing information, discussion and opinion, which viewers are supposed to consider and assimilate so that they can arrive at their own points of view regarding the news events and newsmakers who affect their lives.

Due to this focus on service, the broadcast journalist's persona shouldn't intrude into or distract from the news he's dispensing. It's therefore important that he should not be built up as a "star," because stars are entertainers, not journalists.

Now, when a journalist is asked to endorse a product in a commercial, all of a sudden, his relationship with the public changes—more properly, it is distorted. Suddenly, he is no longer the objective conduit of information but a salesman who's plugging a product. What a distortion, indeed.

As a result, viewers no longer know how to take the so-called broadcast journalist who's now also a product endorser. The subjectivity he shows in relation to the product clashes with, contradicts and even erodes the objectivity he must posses to perform his newscasting service well.

If he can "sell" a product, viewers are no longer sure if he's also subliminally selling them a bill of goods when it comes to the news he's reporting. And his professionalism is shot.

Perceptive viewers see this injurious contradiction in the newscaster, who's also a commercial endorser, so it's a wonder that some networks and watchdog groups don't.

It's time for the networks and the KBP to take a stand on this issue, for the illumination of broadcast journalists who have found it difficult to resist the fat fees that TV testimonials offer them.

Ironically, broadcast journalists are sought out to endorse products because advertisers believe that their image of credibility can convince the public to buy their products. However, in "buying" that credibility, advertisers are in fact eroding it, so broadcast journalists' words no longer ring true. Talk about a lose-lose situation, this is it.

Perhaps some journalist-endorsers are banking on the "fact" that local viewers aren't that perceptive and critical. We urge them to reconsider that view, however, because viewers have become more aware of the need to take the TV medium seriously.

Journalist-endorsers should really reconsider their blithe disdain for professional standards and the opinion of the public, before they wake up one day to find the reputation they've built up for many years suddenly all shot, and deficient in those two essential elements of objectivity and credibility that made them admired broadcast journalists in the first place.

Two seminars

CORBAN Daycare and Tutorial Center is holding English and writing seminars for children on 10 successive Saturdays starting July 26.

"Quick and Easy English," for children aged 7 to 12, uses a multi-level approach to enable kids to enjoy written and spoken English, even as they learn rules of grammar and special skills for creative writing. It is held from 9 to 10 a.m.

"English Without Pain," for students aged 13 to 16, uses work modules and drills that help children absorb rules of grammar and writing in a simplified manner. Thus, English is learned by instinct, enabling students to speak and write grammatically, and with greater confidence. The seminar is held from 10 to 11 a.m.

Mona Gonzales handles both classes with two-facilitators. Corban is on the sixth floor of the MB Aguirre Bldg., President's Avenue corner Elizalde Street., Sucat, Parañaque. Call 842-6665.

Dessa at the Museum

DESSA, one of the country's "power" performers, performs again at the Music Museum in "Acoustic Rhythm" tonight at 9 p.m.

Dessa's very special guests are Nyoy Volante and Regine Velasquez.

"This will be a different show for me because we will be doing all the songs in an acoustic setting," says Dessa. "*Yung tipong* easy listening *lahat, pero mga* show stoppers *din*."

"Acoustic Rhythm" with Dessa is presented by No Curfew and Citizen, and is sponsored by Campus Theater and Sing-Along Bar, Nestlé Kitkat, Metaopsis and the Manila Bulletin.

Tickets are available at the Music Museum Ticketron and at Ticketworld outlets.

SHOW TIME

CRIS AT JOGRAD'S

Friday and Saturday nights are hot nights at Jog999 Executive Lounge and Piano Bar, owned by comedian-businessman Jograd de la Torre, at the corner of Princeton Street and Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City, with 17-year-old Cris Garcia performing. Jog999 Executive Lounge is getting ready to mark its first anniversary in August with big shows featuring its own artists.

SONG OF
MULAN
A TALE OF A YOUNG GIRL'S TRIUMPH OVER GREAT ODDS
Nancy Castiglione as Mulan • Greg Turvey as Captain Shang • Directed by Freddie Santos

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Aug. 2 - 11am, 3pm. 6pm	Aug. 9 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 16 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Aug. 3 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 10 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 17 - 11:30am, 3pm, 6pm

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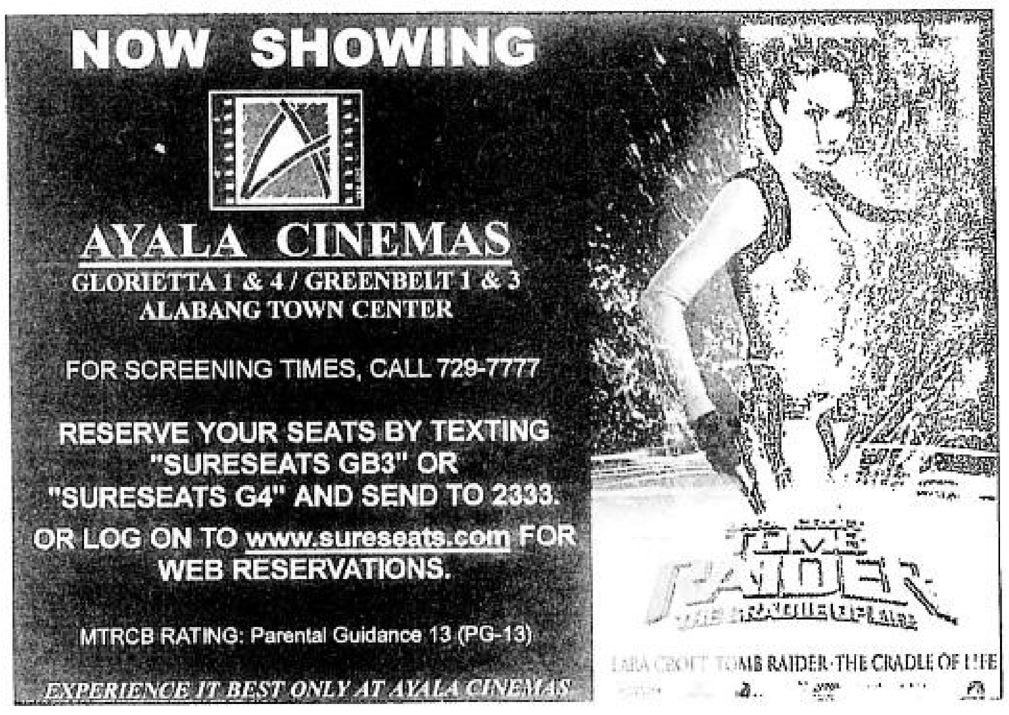
Dark Water
STARRING HITOMI KUROKI RIO KANNO MIREI OGUCHI ASAMI MIZUKAWA
DIRECTED BY HIDEO NAKATA
Solar FILMS INC.



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TOMB RAIDER
LARA CROFT TOMB RAIDER · THE CRADLE OF LIFE

AYALA CINEMAS

OPENS JULY 30 AT ArtFilm

DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

TONY LEUNG KA-FAI DAVID MORSE RENE LIU

DOUBLE VISION

Two men from opposite sides of the world must work together to explain the unexplainable.

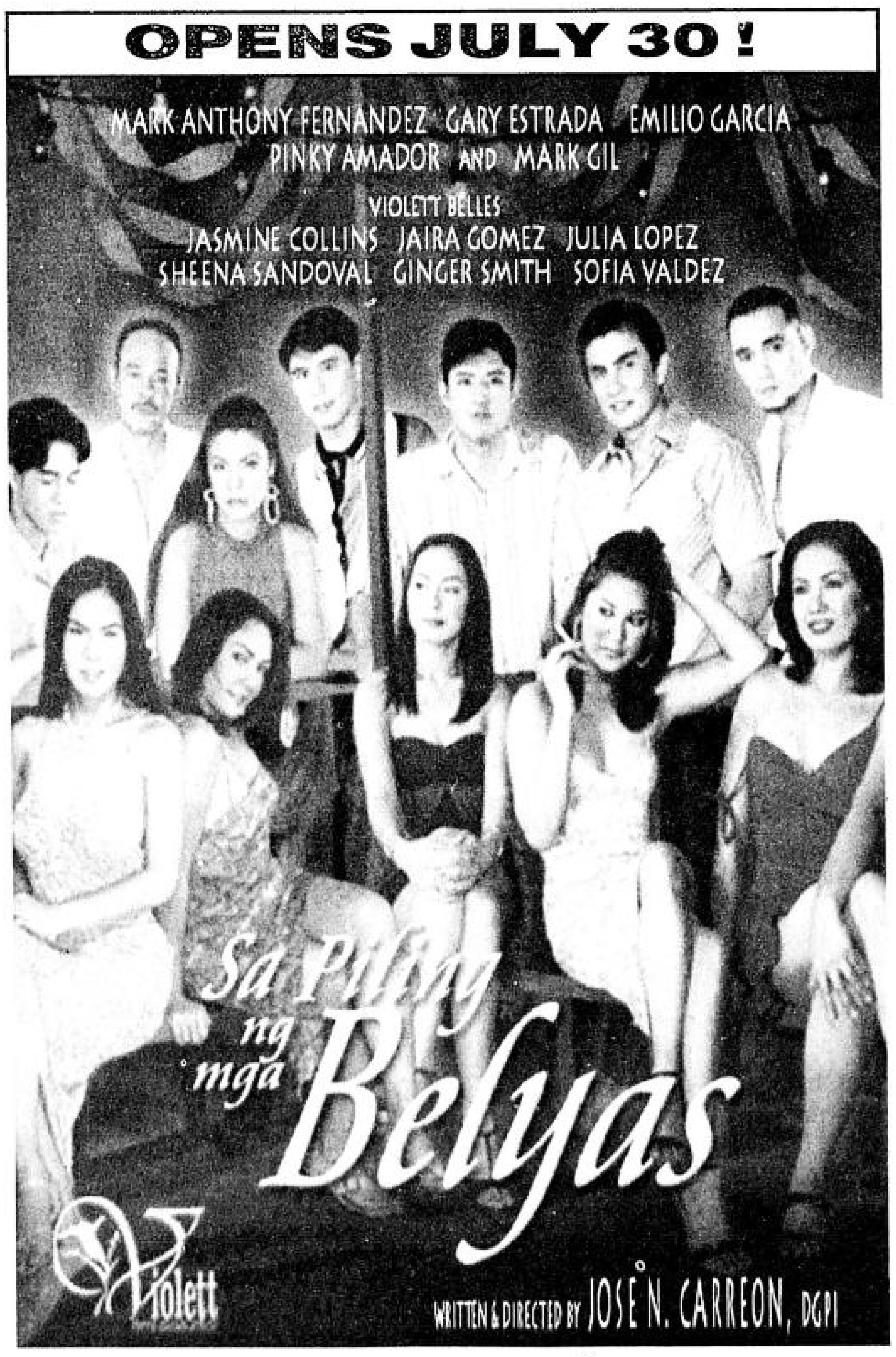
- A wealthy businessman accused of spilling toxic waste into the ocean is discovered dead in his office. Although the room is completely dry, he is believed to have drowned.
- A beautiful mistress of a government official has been burned to death in her home, although there are no signs of fire anywhere.
- A priest known for transporting illegal weapons is found in his bed, disemboweled, although there are no signs of struggle.

To solve these grisly crimes, the Taiwanese government is forced to enlist the help of an American FBI agent (David Morse, "The Green Mile", "Dancer In The Dark"). He is teamed with a troubled local cop (Tony Leung, "The Lover") and together they must do the impossible. Their journey will lead them into Taiwan's darkest corners and to an ancient cult in search of immortality

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)

NOKIA COLUMBIA PICTURES INQUIRER

DOUBLE VISION



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also starring:

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A small-town librarian (John Simm) falls head-over-heels with a beautiful stranger (Cristina Ricci). She is secretly enmeshed in a darkly complex web of intrigue and deceit between her con artist-mentor (John Hurt) and a sleazy millionaire (Kyle MacLachlan). Seeking solace in the bright albeit naive embrace of her loopy new lover, but it's anybody's guess whether they'll emerge unscathed from this high-stakes game.

Miranda was screened at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)

NOKIA Solar FILMS INC. INQUIRER

A BETTER person because of show business is what Liberty Ilagan considers herself. JM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Even a National Artist couldn't stop Liberty

YESTERDAY

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE LATE filmmaker, National Artist Gerry de Leon, did not want any of his three children to join him in the movies, but his daughter Liberty was persistent.

While De Leon was doing everything to dissuade her from joining show business, Liberty was secretly preparing herself. And she was able to keep it from her father—until it was time for her to sign a contract with Sampaguita Pictures. She used her father's middle name and became known in the movies as Liberty Ilagan.

"He said show business was no fun and that there were pains that went with being a part of it," says Liberty, now 60, in her home in Mandaluyong City. "But I told him he was not the person who could keep me from doing what I wanted."

De Leon himself could have been a doctor, having finished medical studies at the University of Santo Tomas, but he chose to create films that became critically acclaimed, even classics, until his death in July 1981.

De Leon, creator of such classics as "Sawa sa Lumang Simboryo," "Sanda Wong," "The Moises Padilla Story," "Daigdig ng Mga Api," was declared National Artist in film in 1982.

Liberty is De Leon's second daughter with his first wife, Patricia Dicks. She was 15 years old when Sampaguita Pictures patriarch Dr. Jose Vera Perez spotted her in a *santacruzan*, where she was a *sagala*, and asked her to be in the movies. De Leon signed the contract for Liberty with much hesitation, since she was still a minor.

"Because I told him not to stop me from doing what I wanted, my father made sure not to meddle with my movie career," Liberty recalls.

"We never even had a chance to work in a movie together," she adds. "That is something I feel sad about up to now."

Show biz clan

Liberty belongs to a famous clan of film and stage actors, starting with her grandfather, Hermogenes Ilagan, who was a stage director, writer and head of a zarzuela company.

Hermogenes' brothers Conrado Conde, Tito Arevalo and Angel Esmeralda were all lawyers who opted to make a name in show business—Conde and Arevalo as musical directors, Esmeralda as actor.

De Leon's daughter Maria Fe with his second wife, actress Fely Vallejo, is the wife of actor Ronaldo Valdez and mother of actor-singer Janno Gibbs.

But long before Liberty accepted the Sampaguita contract, she had been in movies made by her father when she was four.

In "So Long, America," she was with her stepmother Fely and grandfather Angel, while in "Isumpa Mo, Giliw," she played the daughter of Elsa Aurea.

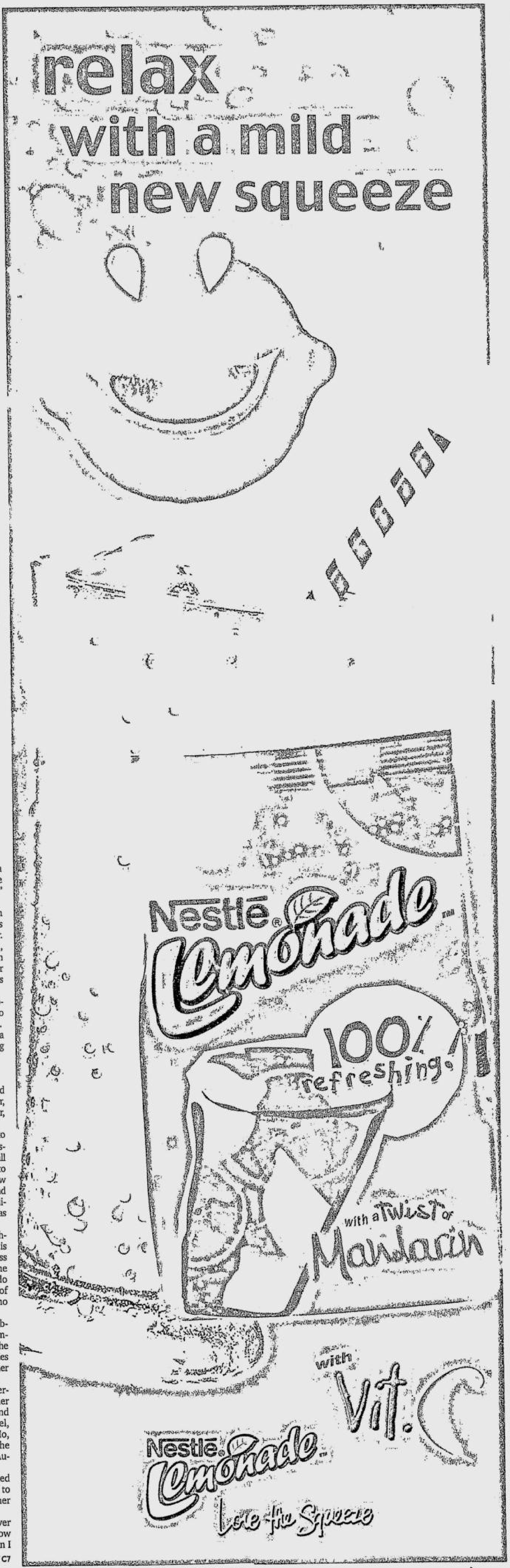
At 6, she stopped acting in movies to concentrate on her studies.

"But I never stopped loving show business even when I

EVEN/ C7

TAGUMPAY
LINGGUHAN NG BAYAN
MARSO 8, 1967
MAGANDA KANG BITUIN
nobela ni JOSE ESPERANZA CRUZ
25 STS

COVER GIRL. One of the many magazine covers she graced



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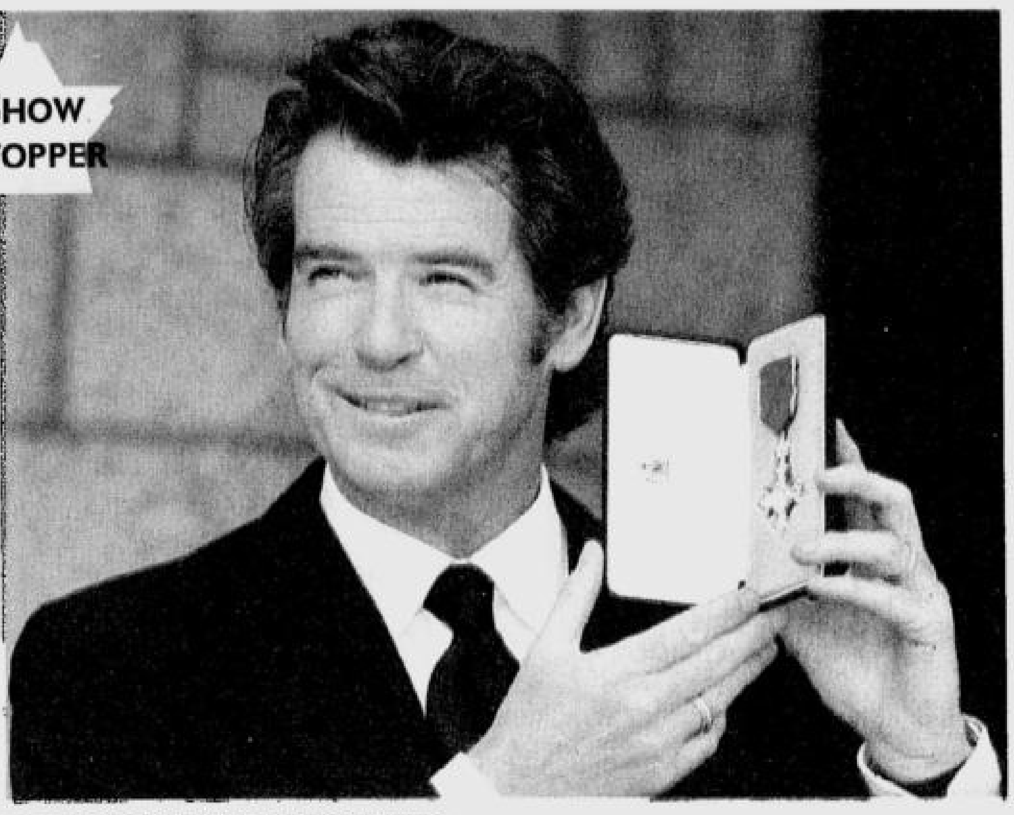
DID YOU KNOW...

Jolina Magdangal adores **Julia Roberts** and counts among her DVD titles a number of the Hollywood star's movies like "Notting Hill," "Pretty Woman" and "My Best Friend's Wedding." But Jolina's collection also includes a copy of the Oscar-nominated musical, "Moulin Rouge," starring **Nicole Kidman** and **Ewan McGregor**. When it comes to music, Jolina burns her own CDs, but also splurges on titles when she goes shopping at record stores. She likes listening to instrumental music, especially tunes from movies.

SHOW STOPPER

ANGELINA THE RAIDER
Angelina Jolie, daughter of Jon Voight and ex-wife of Billy Bob Thornton, arrives in Hollywood, California for the world premiere of her movie "Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life," the sequel of her successful "Tomb Raider" that was inspired by a role-playing game. REUTERS



WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING
Irish eyes smile as actor Pierce Brosnan, known for his James Bond roles, shows off his honorary OBE (Order of the British Empire) presented to him by British Ambassador Stewart Eldon on behalf of England's Queen Elizabeth II for his outstanding contributions to drama and the British film industry, in a special rite in Dublin. AP

Furscukle at Padi's Cavite

AT PADI'S Point Cavite, chill out on Saturdays with Fursurkle (formerly First Circle), which is promoting its latest album, "Hibang Machine."

The album contains their hit singles "Kaibigan" and "Hibang."

Show time is 9 p.m. For reservation, call (046) 431-7842. Padi's Point is at P. Burgos Street, Caridad, Cavite City.

Finding a fantastic fish tale

From page C3

interestingly, Stanton himself–or at least his onscreen simulacrum. Stanton provides the surfer dude vibe for Crush. The sequence with the Sea Turtles in the East Australian Current is among the movie's best-and most significant in terms of allegory. But Stanton catches the audience with his expressions ("Righteous!") and his modern views on parenthood ("Let's see what Little Squirt can do."). That he gets to do that in his pet project feels so right. Pet project, get it?

The father-son dynamic between Marlin and Nemo moves tangentially away from the Mufasa-Simba relationship in "The Lion King." Marlin must learn to let his son discover things on his own while also finding the courage within himself to break free from his fears, fears solidified by his very nature and by his family tragedy. Just as Nemo had to escape from the aquarium to find freedom, Marlin must break free from the aquarium of his seaborne nightmares, nightmares as strong as the ocean is wide. It makes for a surprisingly mature and memorable journey of self-discovery for both father and son.

All in all, "Finding Nemo" nets a bountiful harvest of elements to craft this intelligent, innovative tale for the entire family that doesn't kowtow to anyone in the family. It's Andrew Stanton's ode to the joy and pain of growing up-for both parent and child–and it is an ode not to be missed. Righteous.

Disney/Pixar's "Finding Nemo" opens in Metro Manila theaters on Aug. 13.

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LIZZIE MCGUIRE GP 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	TOMB RAIDER 2 PG13 1:50,4:20, 6:50,9:20	TOMB RAIDER 2 PG13 11:55,2:25,4:55, 7:25,9:55
TERMINATOR: RISE OF THE MACHINES PG13 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00	DOWN WITH LOVE PG13 1:30,3:35,5:40, 7:45,9:50	TOMB RAIDER 2 PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

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TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
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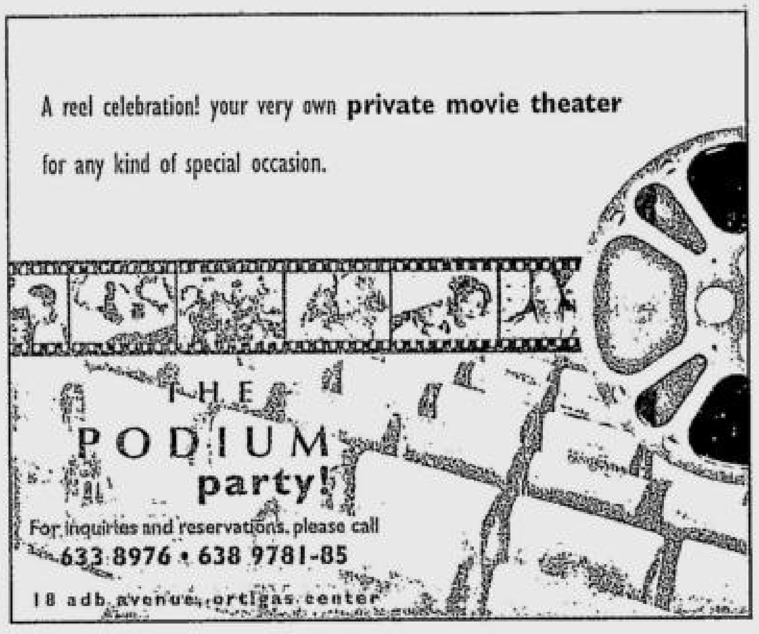

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ARANETA CENTER
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

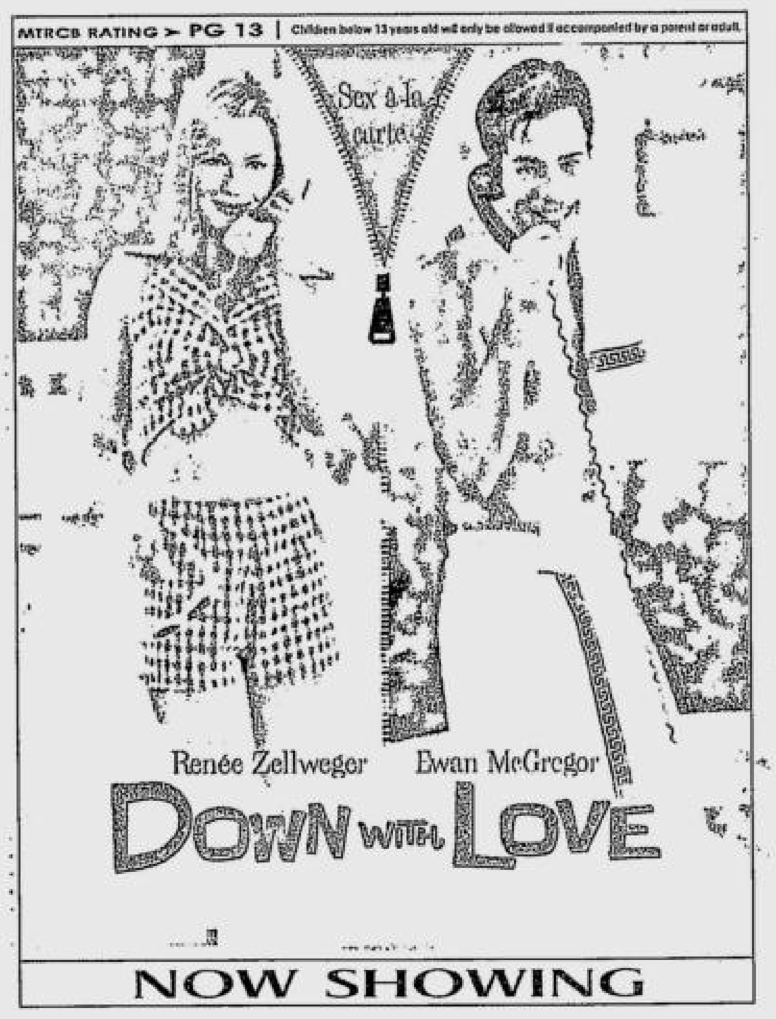
Ali 1	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
Ali 2	MASAMANG UGAT
Ali 3	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 4	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 5	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 6	BANGKOK HANUTED
Ali 7	DEATH WATCH

ARANETA COLISEUM

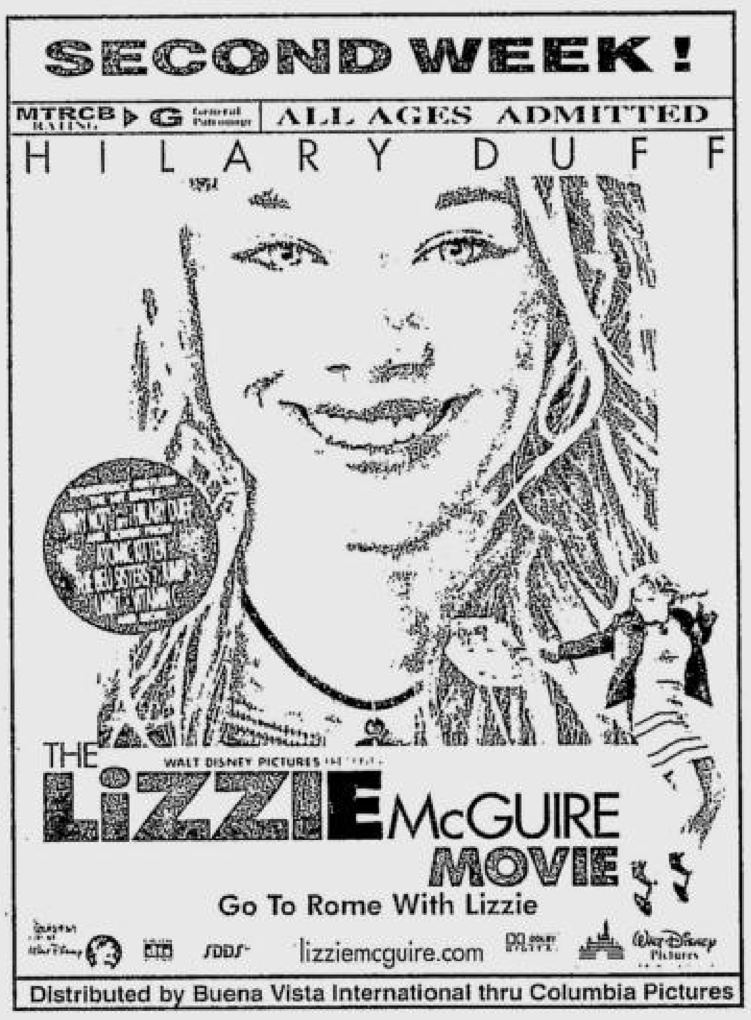
JULY 25 & 26	DON MOEN CONCERT
JULY 31	UAAP GAMES
AUG 01	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 02	JUST ONCE...GREATEST HITS
AUG 03	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 7&9	UAAP GAMES
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SABIK SA PAGIBIG
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SABIK SA PAGIBIG
B	TOMB RAIDER 2
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SABIK SA PAGI-BIG
CINEMA-2	JACKASS
CINEMA-3	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
CINEMA-6	WILD BUTTERFLY
CINEMA-7	BAD INSTINCT
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-12	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
CINEMA-14	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-15	BANGKOK HAUNTED
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA 2	HUNTED
CINEMA 3	JACKASS
CINEMA 4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
Sex à-la carte
Renée Zellweger Ewan McGregor
DOWN WITH LOVE
NOW SHOWING



SECOND WEEK!
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MIKEY ARROYO
MAUI TAYLOR
and
EDDIE GARCIA
Masamang Ugat
Introducing: GWEN GARCI
DIRECTED BY WILFREDO MILAN DGPI
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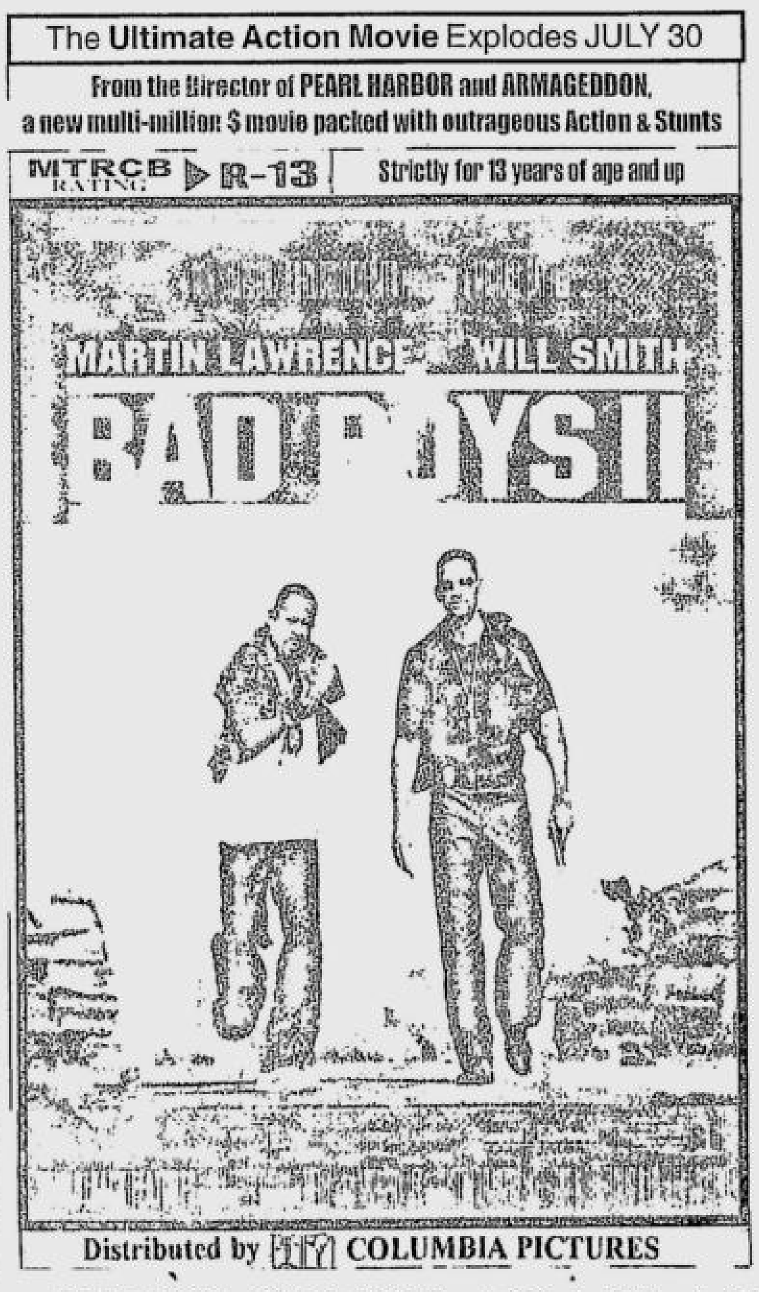

The Ultimate Action Movie Explodes JULY 30
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MARTIN LAWRENCE WILL SMITH
BAD BOYS II
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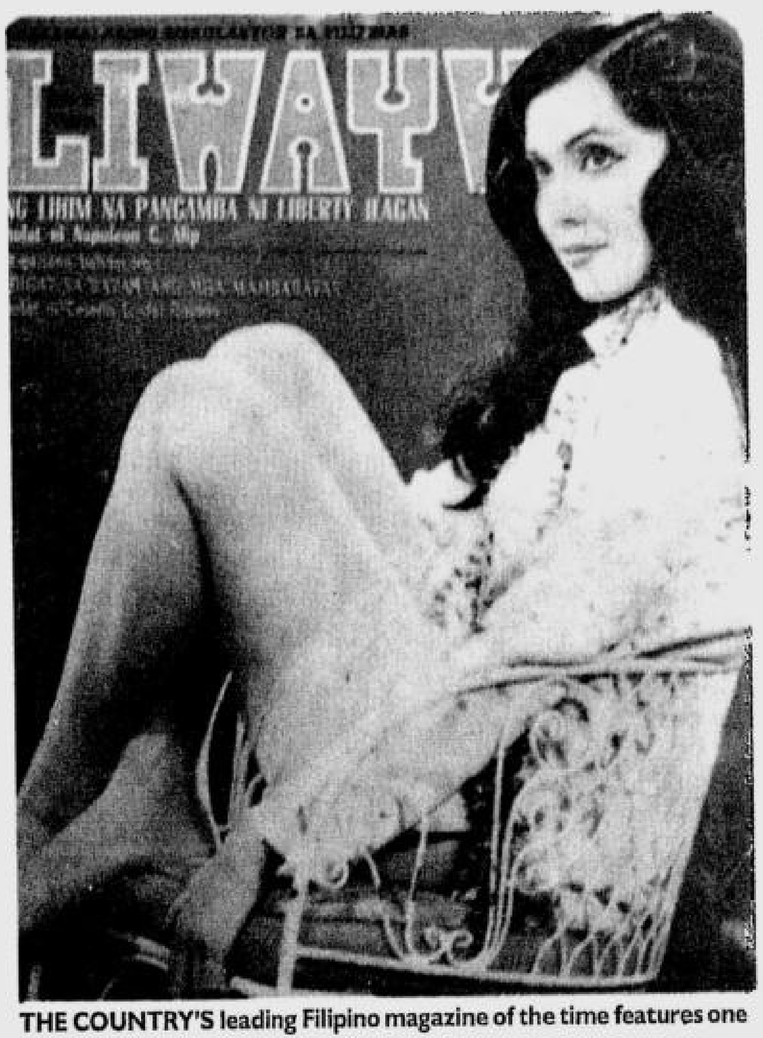

THE COUNTRY'S leading Filipino magazine of the time features one of cinema's most popular stars.

'Being in the movies is only one chapter of my life, and motherhood is another. I didn't want to go back to a chapter that I've already finished'

Even a National Artist couldn't stop Liberty

From page C5

was in school," she says. "I would go with my father to shootings. I was interested in everything he did."

Her movie debut as a grown-up, the 1957 romantic comedy "Lover Boy," paired her with Jose Mari. The movie also starred Susan Roces and Romeo Vasquez.

"I remembered when Mommy (Sampaguita Pictures matriarch Dolores Vera) gave me a pair of high-heeled shoes to signify what she said was my coming of age," Liberty recalls.

Marriage and separation

Liberty went on to appear in many movies, mostly dramatic vehicles and mostly opposite Jose Mari, like "Anghel sa Lansangan," "Kuwintas ng Alaala" and "Laura."

She was also in "Dalawang Kalbaryo ni Dr. Mendez," "Estela Mondragon," "Apat na Anak ni David," "Tatlong Patak ng Luha," "Leron Leron Sinta" and "Mga Espada ng Rubitanya," her last movie with Sampaguita Pictures.

Outside Sampaguita Pictures, she did a couple of movies, until she married businessman and restaurateur Rod Ongpauco in 1971 and decided to retire from the movies.

The couple separated after eight years of marriage. They have three daughters—Love, Happy and Soeng.

The Ongpaucos are the owners of the Barrio Fiesta, Foreign Side, Bakahan at Manukan, and Kalde-Kaldero Singing Cooks and Waiters chain of restaurants.

"When I got married, I didn't want to continue making movies anymore," says Liberty.

"Being in the movies is only one chapter of my life, and motherhood is another. I didn't want to go back to a chapter that I've already finished."

Better person

She got offers to go back to show business, but she says no role, no matter how "challenging," could lure her back.

"The only question in my head now is whether I had quit show business just in time or ahead of time," she says. "I didn't get to star in the kind of movies I really wanted to do—comedies and musicals. I was too young to appreciate the drama in the films that I made."

These days, Liberty is busy renovating the Barrio Fiesta and Kalde-Kaldero restaurants in Makati, using the interior design course that she took up after she married Ongpauco.

Soon, she says, she plans to venture into food manufacturing.

"Show business has made me become a better person," Liberty Ilagan declared. "It has taught me how to adjust to any situation."

FREE PRESS
SOLO ON THE DOUBL
NG LIWAYWAY

LIBERTY (left) and fellow Sampaguita star Daisy Romualdez flank visiting actor Robert Vaughn. In Liwayway again, she goes retro long before retro gets hot again.

Pete Canzon's back, performs at Hobbit

ONCE a jazz person, always a jazz person.

And saxophonist Pete Canzon has a feeling that those who went for his jazz in the Birdland days would want to take time and hear him again together with new jazz enthusiasts.

At the Hobbit House tonight, Pete Canzon makes a comeback in the jazz scene in the show "Filipino Jazz."

Joining him is The Pen, the group with Nick Farrales, keyboard and vocals; Rey "Egpy" de Castro, bass and vocals; Ammy Maranan, drums, and Mar Magsino, technical support.

Canzon had not actually left the music scene in the past years. He performed folk rock with Freddie Aguilar, did sessions with Lolita Carbon and other musicians. Situations and choice just caused the momentary drift from jazz.

An architecture graduate, he also devoted time to ink and pen, doing landscapes, a favorite subject.

For his musical passion, he also spent time composing. The pieces are there, lying to be picked up when their time comes.

Just like returning home, one comes back with more resolve to stay.

Pete Canzon and The Pen simply intend to do just that.

The show, which starts at 8:30 p.m., will feature many '70s favorites, making it a comeback to old times and passions that never cease.

SHOW TIME

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ENTERTAINMENT

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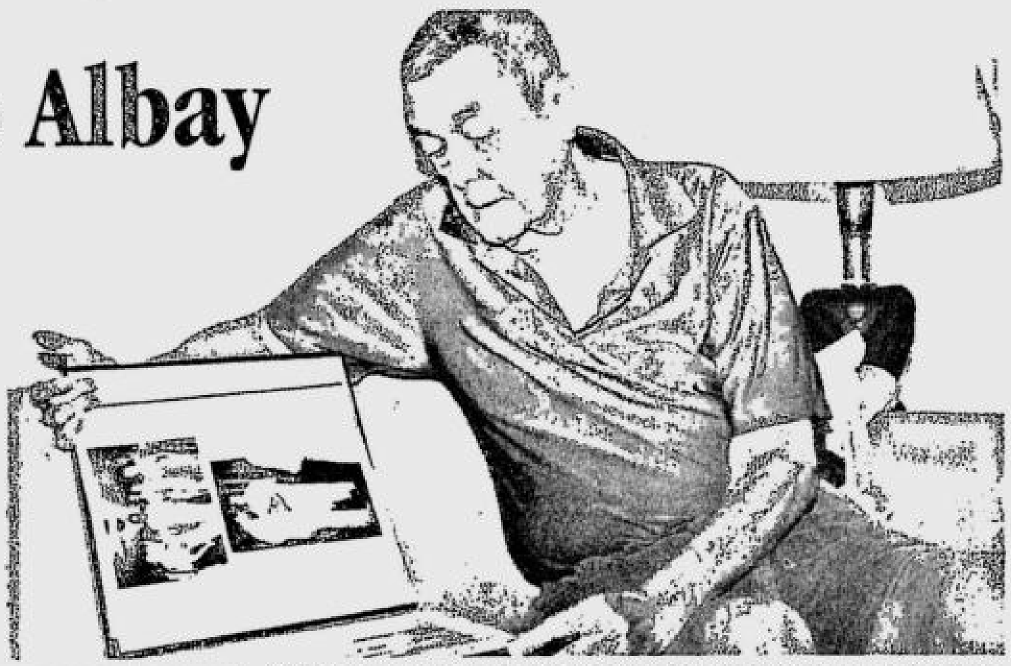
Editor Louie C. Camino

'Tio' Oca often came home to Albay

'You could see him walking on the street, talking to a para-tienda (vendor) and cracking jokes with his friends and acquaintances who had remained here'



MORENO, photographed by Johnny Villena for the INQUIRER last May, liked to visit the family's ancestral home (far left).

CAMALIG PHOTOS BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA, PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CAMALIG, Albay—Former screen heartthrob Oscar Moreno was a very down-to-earth man who liked to visit his native town and bring home *pili* and *pinangat* back to Manila.

When he was in his 20s, Moreno (real name, Oscar Gamboa Anson) had painted the ceiling of the church in this town, said Marife Calpe Bayona, adopted daughter of Moreno's brother Cesar, in an interview with the INQUIRER in the Anson ancestral house in Centro Camalig.

Moreno, father of actress Boots Anson-Roa, died of cardiac arrest last Saturday morning in Quezon City. He was 82.

Even when Moreno, popularly known as "Oca" in Camalig, lived both in Canada and in Manila, he still visited his ancestral home, said Bayona.

When Oca was visiting, many Camalig residents would go to the Anson house just to see the former matinee idol.

"Of course, my kind-hearted uncle would welcome them, although sometimes he could not accommodate them all," said Bayona. "But he was really down-to-earth because he stayed even when he was no longer used to the local weather. He would rest in his favorite chair. He used his old record player to listen to his favorite 1950s songs.

"*Tio* Oca would come here just like an ordinary Camaligueño. You could see him walking on the street, talking to a *para-tienda* (vendor) and cracking jokes with his friends and acquaintances who had remained here."

"He would bring plenty of *pili* and *pinangat* every time he left for Manila," she added.

Moreno's painting of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which he did when he was in his 20s, once decorated the ceiling of the old town church, she said.

The old church was destroyed by typhoon "Sisang" in 1987.

Bayona said she first saw her Tio Oca when he was already in his 40s.

The 1950s and the 1960s "were the crowning days of the Ansons here," she said, because Moreno was then at his peak in the movies. "The Ansons became one of the prominent families here in Camalig," she said.

The last time Camalig residents saw Moreno was only last May, when he, together with his children, visited the town, according to Bayona.

She said that aside from her father Cesar, she and her family could not go to Manila to pay their final respects to the former actor, whose remains were cremated Thursday.

"But we know in our heart that Tio Oca would be in the hands of God," she said.

FAVORITE CHAIR. Moreno liked to rest here whenever he was in Camalig.

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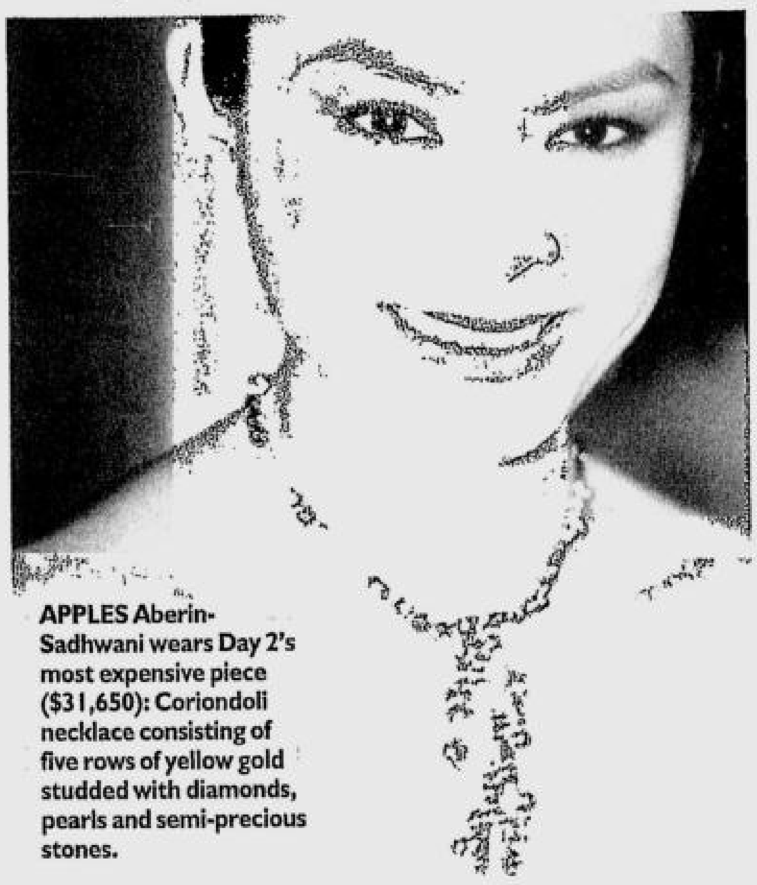


APPLES Aberin-Sadhwani wears Day 2's most expensive piece ($31,650): Coriondoli necklace consisting of five rows of yellow gold studded with diamonds, pearls and semi-precious stones.

Semi-precious yet precious

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

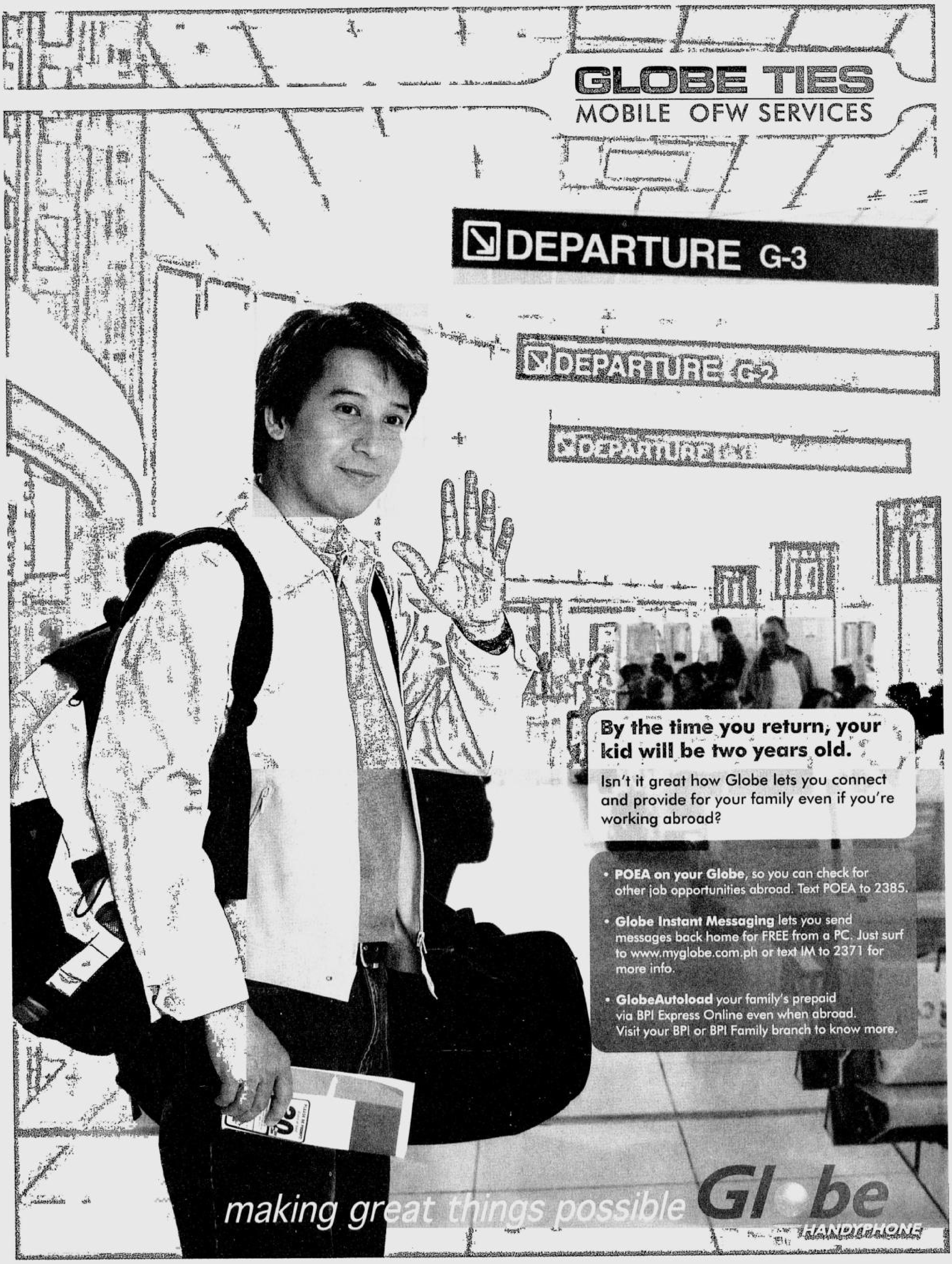
SIZE does matter, more so when it comes to jewelry. Italian luxury brand Bulgari has again given the ladies something to talk about after launching the Allegra, its latest collection of jewelry, in a two-night dinner and fashion show at the Shangri-La Hotel's Cheval Blanc.

The Allegra is so unlike Bulgari's previous collections in terms of size, design and whimsical combination of colors.

In keeping with today's trends, for in-

SEMI-PRECIOUS/D2

ISSA Gonzales-Agana wears a set of Allegra Coriandoli earrings ($2,195) and ring ($3,495) with diamonds, blue topaz, amethyst, citrine and pink tourmaline set in yellow gold.



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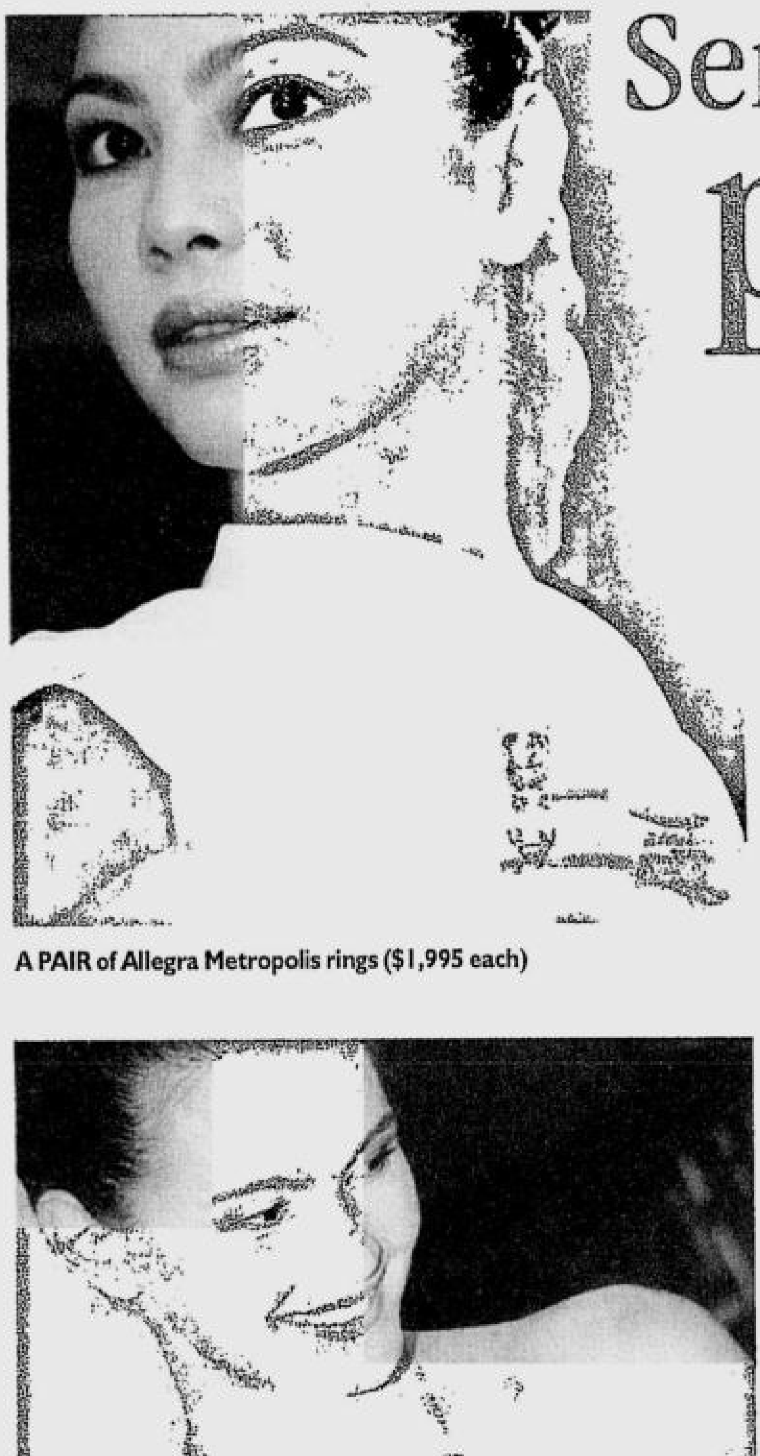
ALLEGRA Tondo shake pendant made of white gold and adorned with peridot, pink tourmalines, amethyst, citrine and blue topaz ($1,695)

A HIPPER version of the Allegra Tondo shake pendant with leather necklace

ANNETE Coronel-Cruz dazzles in a set of Allegra Coriandoli necklace ($26,250) and earrings ($3,495).

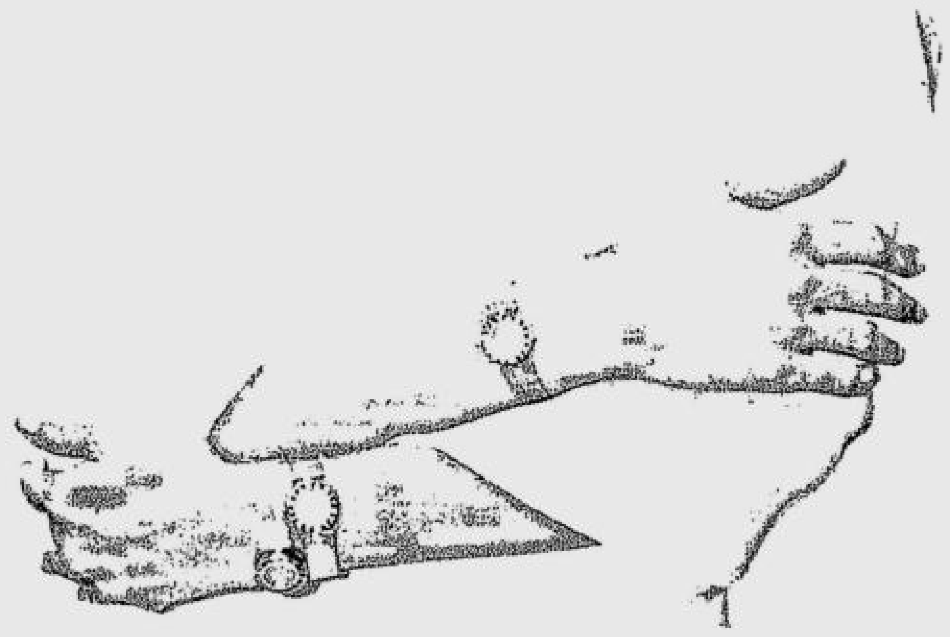
Semi-precious yet precious

Bulgari's latest jewelry line goes chunky, young, hip and treasured



A PAIR of Allegra Metropolis rings ($1,995 each)

TWEETIE de Leon-Gonzalez wears three candy-colored Bulgari watches. At $1,250 a pop, these beauties don't come cheap.



From page D1

stance, several pieces are generally chunky and combine various semi-precious stones such as amethysts, blue topazes, yellow citrines as well as pink and green tourmalines.

Combined with diamonds and pearls, a particular piece not only increases in value, but also gains more brilliance.

"The look may be different," says Mario Katigbak, general manager of Bulgari in the Philippines, "but Allegra has the same characteristics as previous collections."

For one, necklaces are as fluid and as versatile as earlier pieces. Rather than stick out like a set of oversized buttons, each Allegra piece "caresses" the wearer's neck like a second skin.

Of course, such pieces all the more enhanced the likes of Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, two of the evening's featured models.

Katigbak attributes the collection's "made-to-order" quality to the high standards set by Bulgari.

"Construction is the key," he explains. "Each element is linked to another element that forms a series of separate pieces requiring time and skill to make. Bulgari's seasoned craftsmen follow a particular design to the letter. They don't resort to shortcuts."

The same attention to detail is reflected in the cut. Some stones are faceted, while others are either dome-shaped (cabochon) or rectangular (emerald cut).

Swirls

Bulgari's emphasis on quality doesn't mean its wearers are forever consigned to boring pieces. On the contrary, the brand's series of Optical rings features a flat, rotating disk with patterns that resemble swirls of chocolate marble.

Actually the swirls are either made of onyx or mother of pearl set in yellow gold. One variation is paved with tiny pieces of diamonds.

"Those small disks spin with a flick of the finger," says Katigbak. "I can't help but wonder how Bulgari was able to manufacture such pieces. They spin without a hitch."

At the same time, each piece is arguably dainty by today's standards. Katigbak describes the kaleidoscope collection as more modern and feminine than earlier editions.

"Colored stones are back with a vengeance," he says. "But this isn't the first time we're going into this direction. We've always been known for using semi-precious stones. This time the collection is more subdued in terms of size and design. It will definitely appeal to the young and the young at heart."

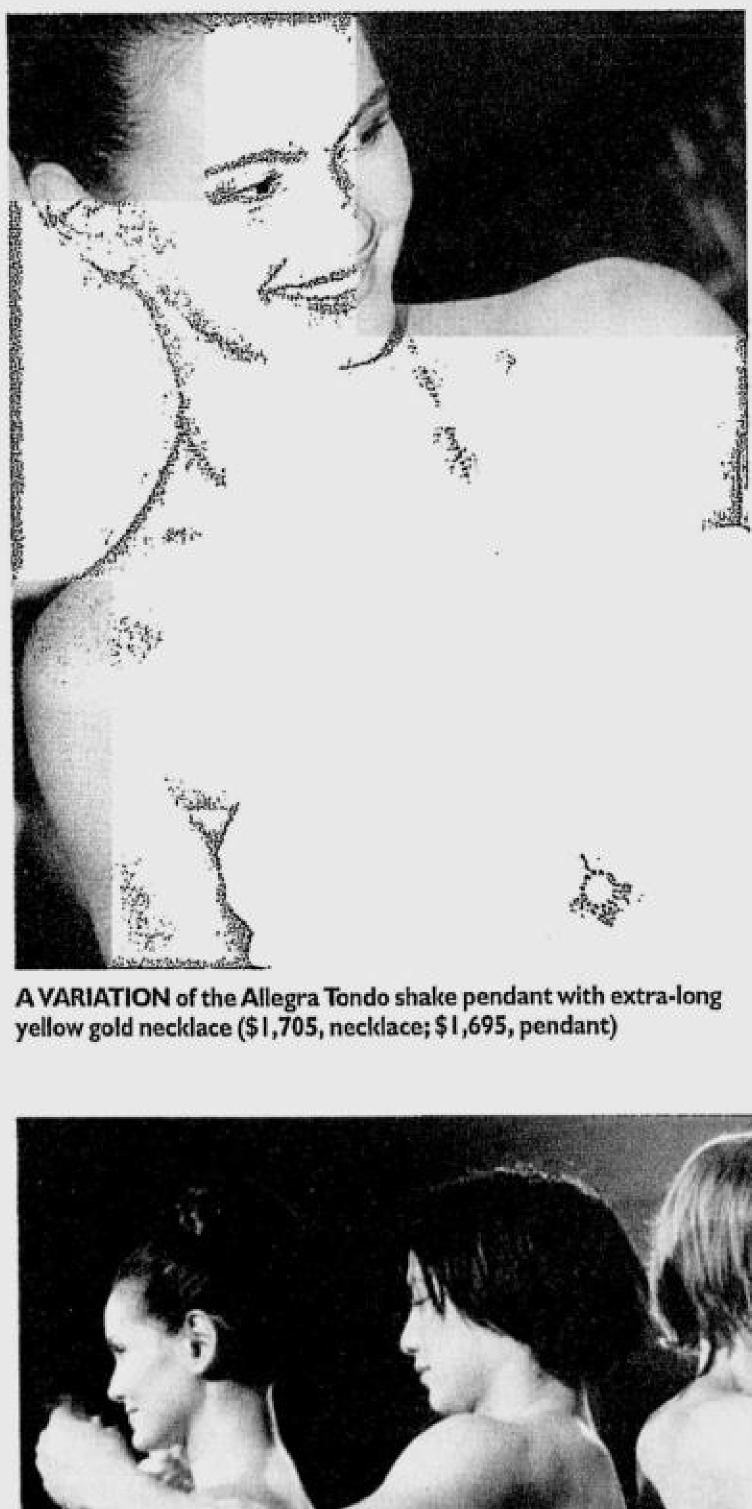
Local buyers, by the way, are assured of getting the latest from Bulgari, which began launching the Allegra collection a few weeks ago in several key cities the world over. Katigbak is undaunted that such a new line meant for younger women might turn off Bulgari's loyal clients of more mature women.

"It's simply a matter of how a woman carries a particular style," he says. "One can only have so much diamonds. Semi-precious stones offer the wearer flexibility. The Allegra is bound to generate interest among younger women, but we will still maintain our core collection."

All that workmanship that went into a particular piece has its price. Bulgari's candy-colored watches with matching leather straps can set back loyal fans by $1,250. Allegra's Coriandoli necklace, made of pearls, paved diamonds and double rows of semi-precious stones, costs $26,250.

At $31,650, the Coriandoli necklace is the most expensive of them all. It consists of five rows of pearls, paved diamonds and semi-precious stones set in yellow gold. Size as well as price indeed matter.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



A VARIATION of the Allegra Tondo shake pendant with extra-long yellow gold necklace ($1,705, necklace; $1,695, pendant)

ABERIN-SADHWANI, with INQUIRER Lifestyle's Tessa Prieto-Valdes, slips into an Allegra Coriandoli necklace fashioned from pearls, diamonds and semi-precious stones ($4,450).

SUYEN Chi gets pensive in a pair of Allegra Coriandoli earrings of diamonds, pink tourmaline, citrine, blue topaz and amethyst set in yellow gold ($2,195).

MODELS get the royal treatment from a pair of hunks.

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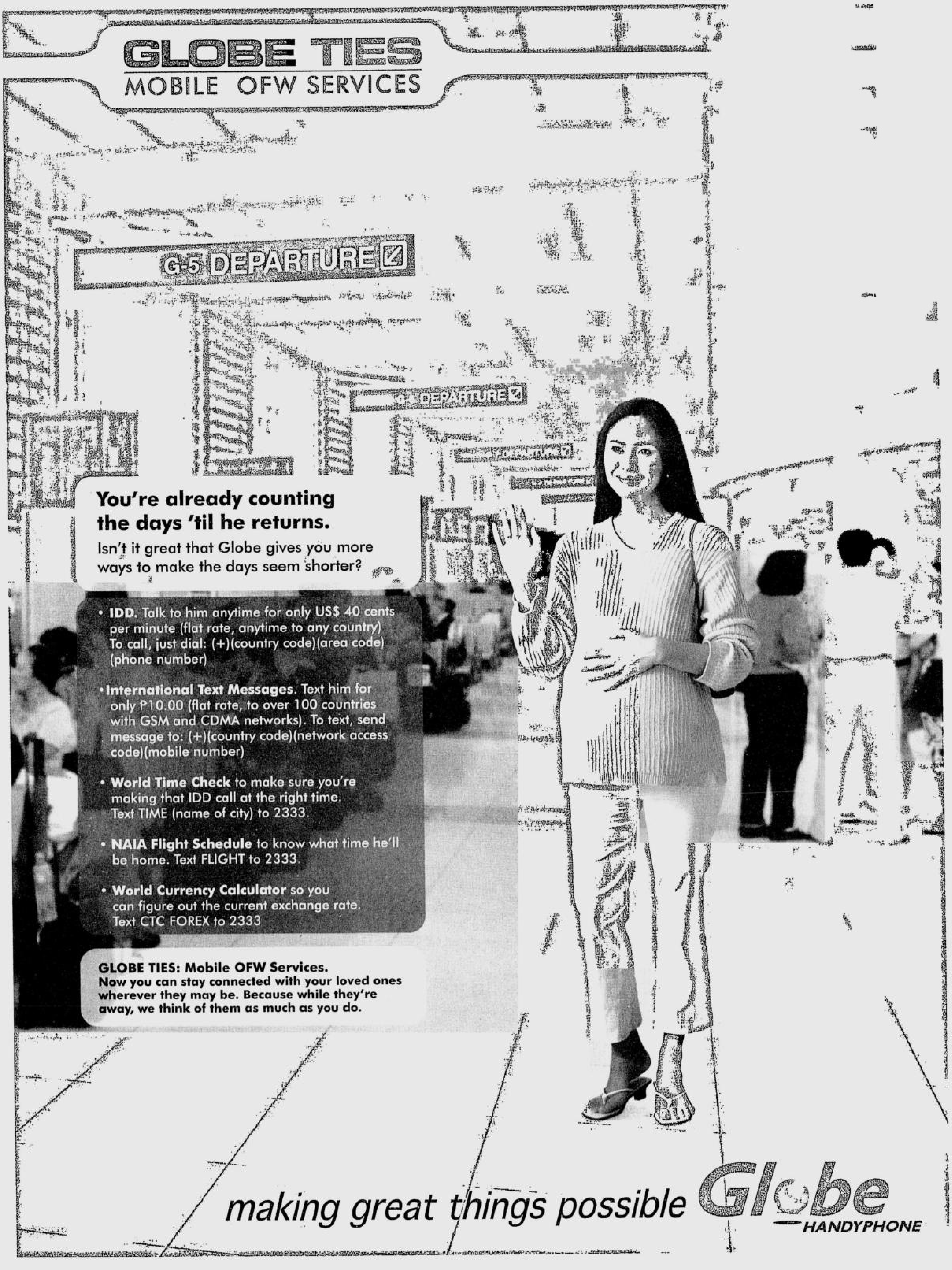

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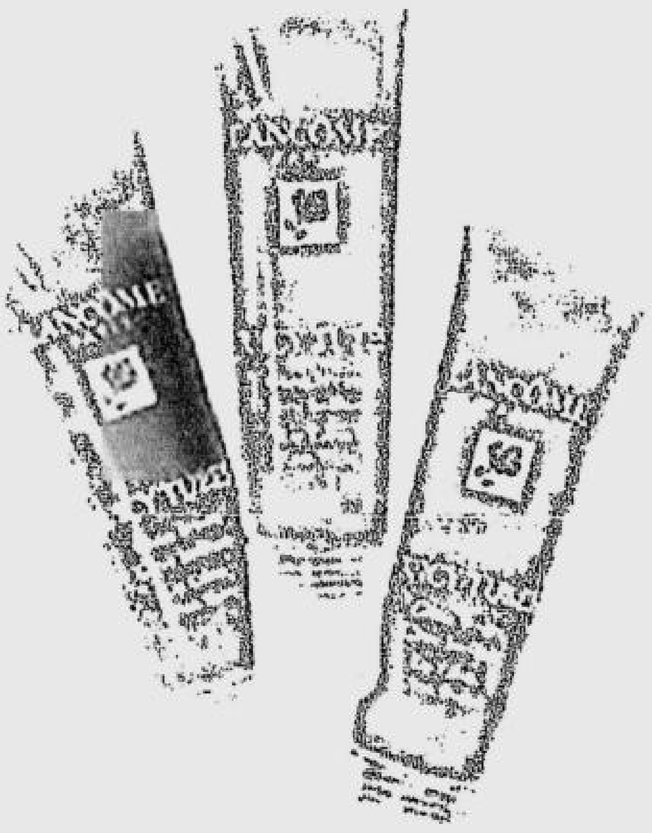
LIFESTYLE Beauty



Some great treats

to try out this season,

from eyebrow care kits

to face firmers

and extra-colorful

lipsticks

LANCÔME Juicy Tubes

Beauty goodies for July

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

I NEVER thought July was a big beauty month. But while roaming the cosmetics department of the major department stores, I was treated to a bag full of goodies—birthday gifts from special friends.

People always frown at my bushy, long and unruly brows, so I got two gifts to (hopefully) remedy this.

Laura Mercier sent me an eyebrow care kit with the famous LM tweezers specially designed by Tweezerman, which grips the tiniest hairs and has an enhanced ergonomic grip that allows for easy holding.

It also has a brow gel, triangular brow pencils in two shades (to adjust to the ever-changing color of my hair), a double-ended groomer, a pencil sharpener and a bonus thickening mascara.

They were nice enough to throw in creamy eye color, brow powder duo and a small palette with light and dark colors. These all come in an elegant nylon carrying case which also has pouches for other LM eye basics.

Shu Uemura tossed in a Brow Manicure in Frosted Brown which makes grooming my brows a breeze. I swipe it over and it sets my brows in place instantly, brightening my eyes. It looks like mascara, but it is meant to groom and fill in brows.

Face firmers. I'm at that age where the first signs of aging are creeping up, and these are my trusty skin-care bodyguards to keep them at bay:

Shu's main gift was the Beta G line's toner and emulsion, meant to maintain the firmness of my face which is continually depleted by advancing years.

Murad's Environmental Shields eye cream swipes away the puffiness and dark circles around my eyes. I use the Vitamin C treatment

BEAUTY/ E2

Real People. True Stories.

"My job and family keep me 'young on the inside' – on the outside, it's definitely Imedeen! It's not just for your face -- over-all conditioning talaga!"

Zina Rosales,
events planner, mother of two teenagers,
'proud to be vain'

How can you best enjoy a life packed with blessings? For Zina Rosales, it's by staying vibrant and young in spirit – with skin to match. That's where Imedeen comes in. "Imedeen enhances my skin all over, not just on my face... I started to see aging signs on my neck, but with Imedeen it's now supple and even-toned." Unlike creams and lotions, Imedeen works from inside to help strengthen the inner layers of the skin where aging starts. That's why Zina, a self-described 'beauty cynic', looks young and feels confident. As she puts it, "No one notices the age difference when I'm with my young friends!" Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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Achieving pearly white teeth

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Modern methods of bleaching and whitening choppers are now commonplace and affordable. Take your pick!

MY TEETH are so stained and yellow from coffee, cigarettes and other such things. I'm thinking of having them whitened but have no idea what process is best. Can you suggest different methods that have been proven effective?

Each time I watch a movie or read a magazine, I envy all those Hollywood stars and supermodels for their sparkling white teeth.

I used to think that their pearly whites were all natural (and perhaps some of them were) but later on, I discovered that most of these women, and men, for that matter, resorted to modern methods of bleaching and whitening their choppers.

These procedures are now commonplace and not as expensive as they used to be, although some of them are still quite costly. So, depending on your budget, here are several methods that you might want to consider:

The Bright Smile advantage

According to Dr. Anna Valencia of Rosero's Dental Office, Bright Smile is the fastest, non-invasive method of bleaching teeth. After only an hour, teeth are whitened to its most natural whitest color, which is normally five to six tones lighter than one's current shade.

All it takes are three 20-minute sessions and the use of hydrogen peroxide and gentle blue bulbs.

The blue light helps activate the bleaching gel with the use of wavelengths. This convenient technique does not involve heat and is not damaging to the teeth.

The only disadvantage is that one might experience a bit of sensitivity. But other than that, there are no long-lasting negative effects.

After the procedure, a monthly visit to the dentist is recommended for maintenance.

"We will be making a customized tray (a mold of the patient's teeth) for the patient to use during the monthly maintenance sessions. All she has to do is wear the tray together with some bleaching products for one hour," says Dr. Valencia.

Bright Smile also has corresponding products to help maintain newly whitened teeth. Use their toothpaste that contains baking soda, among other things, and mouthwash for optimum results. Usually, teeth stay white for as long as two to three years, depending on the level of maintenance.

Take-home bleaching kits

Another non-invasive way of bleaching teeth is through dentist-supervised take-home bleaching kits.

As Dr. Valencia explains, "This involves an initial power bleaching session with the use of a customized tray and a higher concentration of bleaching gel. The patient will then bring home her tray and gel to use for seven days. Depending on the brand of the bleaching kit, one will have to wear the tray for an hour each evening or overnight."

After one week, the patient will have to go back to the dentist to determine if an extension of the treatment is necessary. Normally, certain teeth like the canines are more yellow than others, so extra time might be needed to even out the coloring.

"The success rate of this procedure is quite high, and teeth whiten around five to six shades lighter," adds Dr. Valencia.

The only drawback would be that teeth might get more sensitive than usual during treatment.

Using veneers

Veneers are the only (not to mention, the most expensive) way to achieve "Hollywood-white" teeth.

While other bleaching products restore teeth to their natural whiteness, veneers, which are made of pricey porcelain, can create totally different shapes and extremely white flawless teeth.

Dr. Mitz Limpo of Amber Dental Clinic usually recommends this procedure for those with cavities between the teeth, or what is known as class-three cavities. But, according to her, some patients decide to have it done purely for cosmetic reasons.

Before attaching the thin porcelain wafers, Dr. Limpo shaves off around .5 to .8 mm from the front of the patient's teeth. She then attaches the veneers, which can last as long as 10-20 years, with the use of cement. The process requires two office visits.

The only disadvantage to this procedure is that veneers may look fake if the color and shape are not well-chosen or well-suited to the patient. Make sure you have complete confidence in your dentist before having this done.

Bonding

"Bonding is a simple procedure that is cheaper and faster than having veneers done," says Dr. Limpo.

One visit to the dentist is all that's needed to repair cracks, gaps and chips and to create whiter teeth. And since a very thin layer of composite resin is used instead of porcelain, it is not as expensive as veneers.

The procedure takes no longer than one-and-a-half hours for six front teeth and is not at all painful. No grinding or shaving of teeth are involved in the process.

But it is not as resilient and as stain-proof as veneers. So don't bite into anything hard like apples, nails, pencils, ice chips and the like.

Store-bought whiteners

If the methods mentioned above are beyond your budget, store-bought bleaching products like Colgate Simply White Clear Whitening Gel are the perfect alternative. This easy-to-use product costs over P600 and is available in drug stores and groceries in Manila.

Just follow the instructions on the accompanying leaflet, and in a matter of 14 days, you can have relatively whiter teeth. The results may not be as ideal as the above-mentioned techniques (teeth may not turn out as evenly white or as bright) but there will definitely be a visible improvement.

One might also experience some teeth sensitivity and gum irritation, but these are only temporary. However, it is best to consult with a dentist should you experience sensitivity.

Also keep in mind that this product is not recommended for those with gum disease, receding gums and an allergy to any of its ingredients. And just like Bright Smile and take-home bleaching kits, it only works on natural teeth and not on dental work such as crowns, caps, fillings and veneers or teeth with tetracycline stains (discoloring caused by antibiotics).

Another whitening option would be whitening toothpastes like Rembrandt and Colgate Total Plus Whitening, which are also ideal for maintaining newly bleached teeth. The results may not be perfect, but one can still achieve better-looking, more lustrous teeth.

Quick home fix

If you are not absolutely certain about splurging on any whitening method or product, try this low-maintenance home concoction that was suggested in Bazaar magazine's August issue:

Simply mix hydrogen peroxide and Arm and Hammer baking soda until it gets the consistency of toothpaste. Use this to brush teeth and instantly lift surface stains, freshen mouth and improve one's smile. But take note that this mixture does not have bleaching properties.

Also, do remember that certain things like tobacco, coffee, tea and red wine are major causes of stained teeth. No matter what method you choose, using or ingesting any of those will provide less than satisfying results.

Rosero's dental offices are located at the 3/F, Joni's Bldg., 832 Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City, and at Room 711 of the Asian Hospital in Alabang.

Amber Dental Clinic is located at 106 Cedar Mansion II, JM Escriva Drive, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

Like model, like makeup

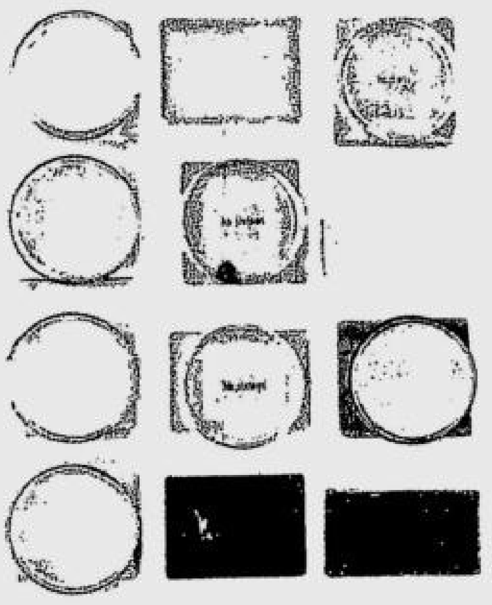
HERBENCH takes the teen cosmetics field by storm with its exciting makeup line called hb_sixteen.

The collection consists of Shimmer Eye Cream, Duo Eye shadow, Flavored Lip Gloss, lipstick, mascara, peel-off nail polish, shimmer powder and oil-control face powder. All hb_sixteen items are allergy-tested and have a light formula that is ideal for the young like Shaina Magdayao, who is hb_sixteen's new image model.

Fun and playful, nicely emphasized in its cute and funky packaging, the hb_cosmetics line is available at all Bench and Herbench boutiques nationwide.

HB_SIXTEEN'S Shimmer Eye Cream livens up her face for that perfect look.

PERK up your hands with ! _sixteen's ‹ eel-Off Nail Polish.



SHIMMER Loose Powder, available in five colors: Blue, Bronze, Gold, Pink and Sienna for only P120 each

SHAINA'S lips made more captivating with soft-colored hb_sixteen lipstick

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Beauty goodies for July

From page E1

on oily skin days and to give my skin that instant dewy baby glow, and Clinique Intense repair as my firming night lotion.

Perfume. At the perfume counter, Glow by J.Lo has a special offer: a faux platinum chain with a rhinestone-encrusted pendant that spells out J.Lo, given away for free for every P5,000 purchase of Glow items.

The pendant has caught so many people's attention that I've been stopped by strangers asking me where I got it. Well, wherever they sell Glow.

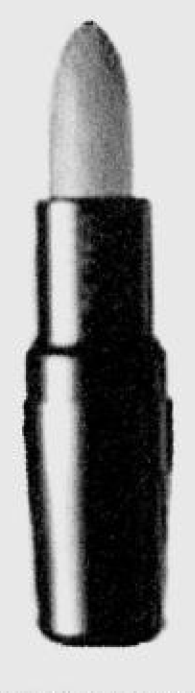
There are a lot of limited-edition perfumes recently released as well.

Blush. If you ran out of Shu Uemura's Sugared Pink, try Maybelline's Pearly Rose. And if you want a pinker version of Nars' Orgasm, try L'Oreal's Blush Delice in Rosewood—peachy pink with gold shimmer that smells like candy.

Lip colors. My biggest obsession is lipstick. Here are some discoveries I want to share with you.

Lancôme's famous Juicy Tubes have miniatures of four in a limited-edition set costing P1,795. Its original value was P2,200.

These lipsticks stay on, give super shine, are so yummy, and actually leave a red or pink tint on the lips that is so sexy and natural-looking.



SHISEIDO S4 lipstick

The colors include Cerise-med (watermelon-flavored red), Fraise (deep red and raspberry-scented), Violette (pale lilac, smells like grape and has gorgeous glitters), and Framboise (pinkish red with strawberry scent). Instant full-lips effect!

Looking for Clinique Black Honey? It's not available here, but Shiseido S4 Honey tea and MAC sheer Plum are clone colors.

If you love MAC Diva but find it too drying, try MAC Oceanberry. It's the sheer version, so hydrating but non-oily.

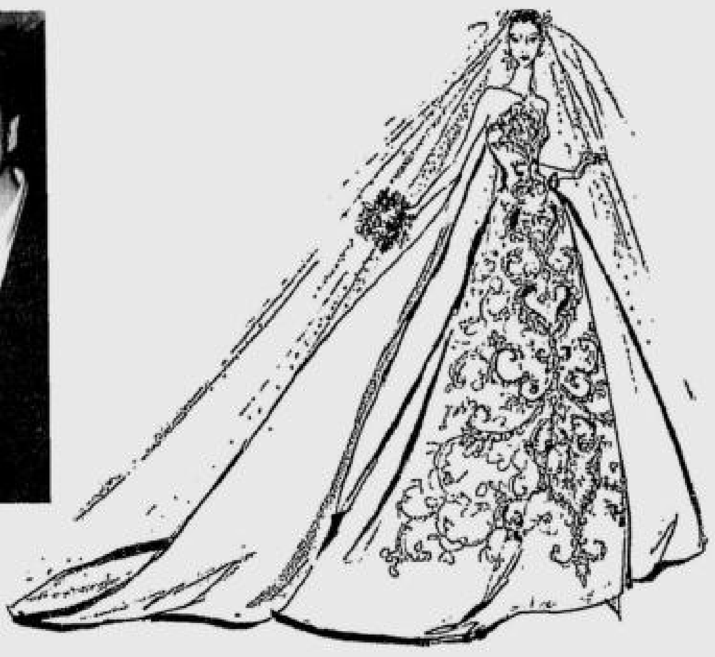
Revlon's Colorstay in Sienna may also be too drying, so I found a moist long-staying alternative: Avon Brilliant Moisture in Brocade.

For lipstick that matches any outfit but with a non-nude color, try MAC's O and Bobbi Brown's Garnet Shimmer. These are plum-bronze-berry-golden-brown tubes all swirled together, giving you a dramatic multidimensional lip effect.

Clinique, please order the shade Surprise in your Different Lipstick Category. It is similar to MAC's O and Bobbi Brown's Garnet Shimmer.

SHU Uemura's Beta-G Booster

Thanks to Jenny Teves and Diana Lorenzo from Rustan's and Essences, Ann W. for the J.Lo pendant, and Donna Faylona from Shiseido, Apples Morales from Lancome, Louie Migne from Avon and Tina Tinio from Shu Uemura.



FLOIRENDO-DRAGON

When **Vicente Floirendo**, son of **Tony** and **Nenita Floirendo**, takes his bride **Melissa Dragon**, daughter of **Cong. Rene** and **Yaying Dragon,** next week at Santuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, she will wear a **J. Moreno** creation of pure white guiupure lace in a classic design embossed with seed pearls and mother of pearls. A twisted twin panel from the shoulder winds up to the waistline caught by a tiny cord. Orange blooms spray over her chignon that catches her long illusion tulle veil.

The reception will be at the beautiful garden of the Floirendos. They chose a sunshine-and-garden look inspired by the Pearl Farm in Davao.

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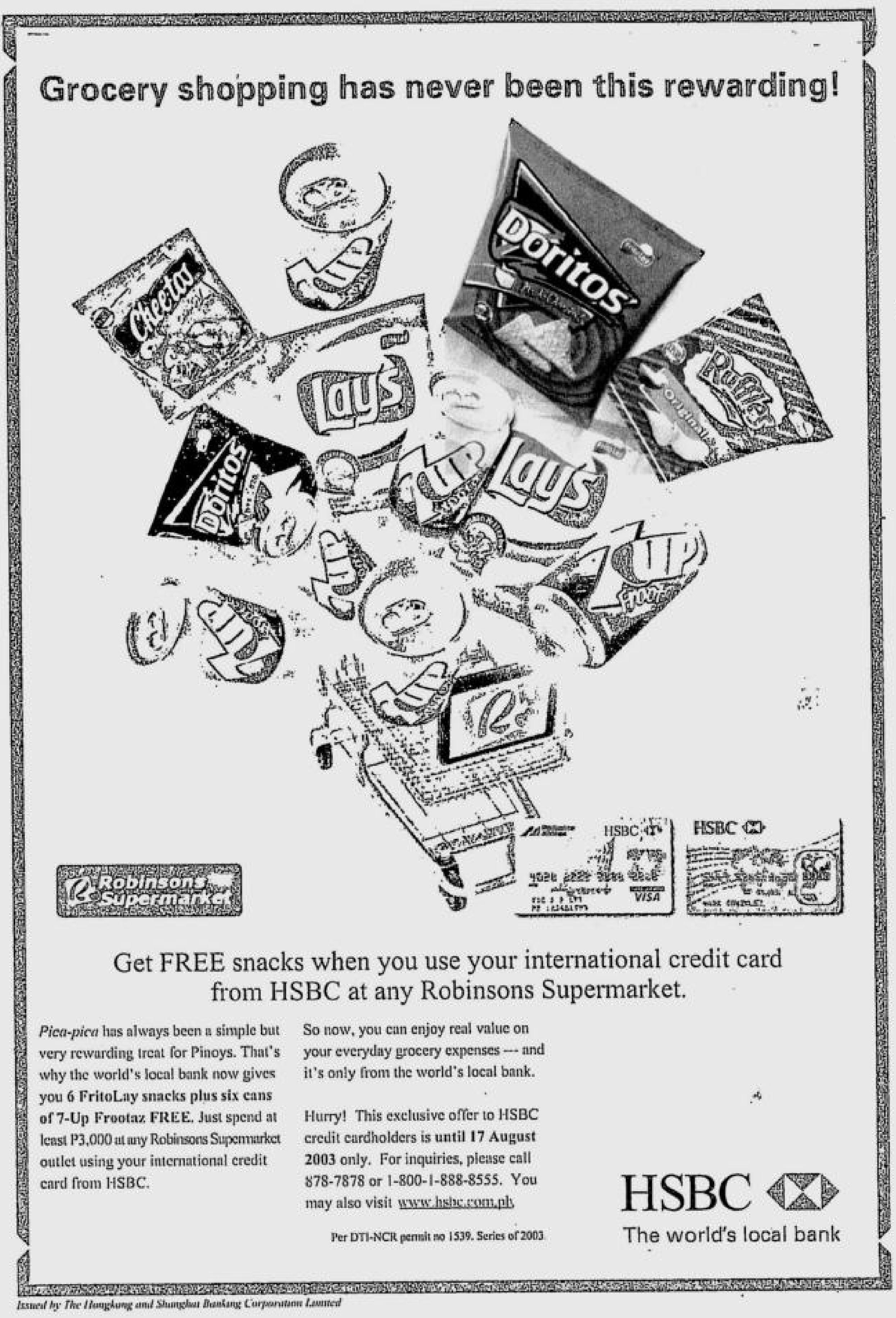
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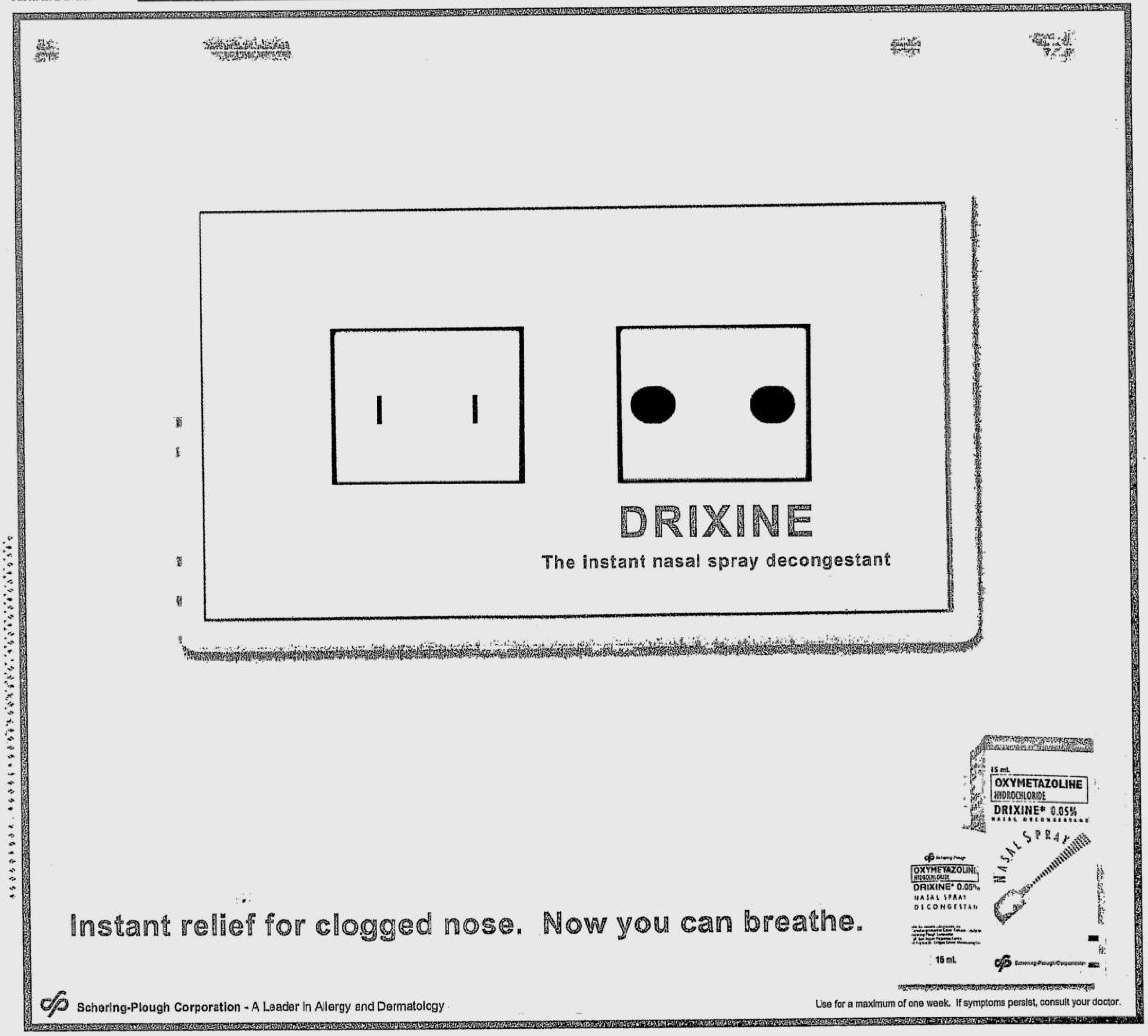
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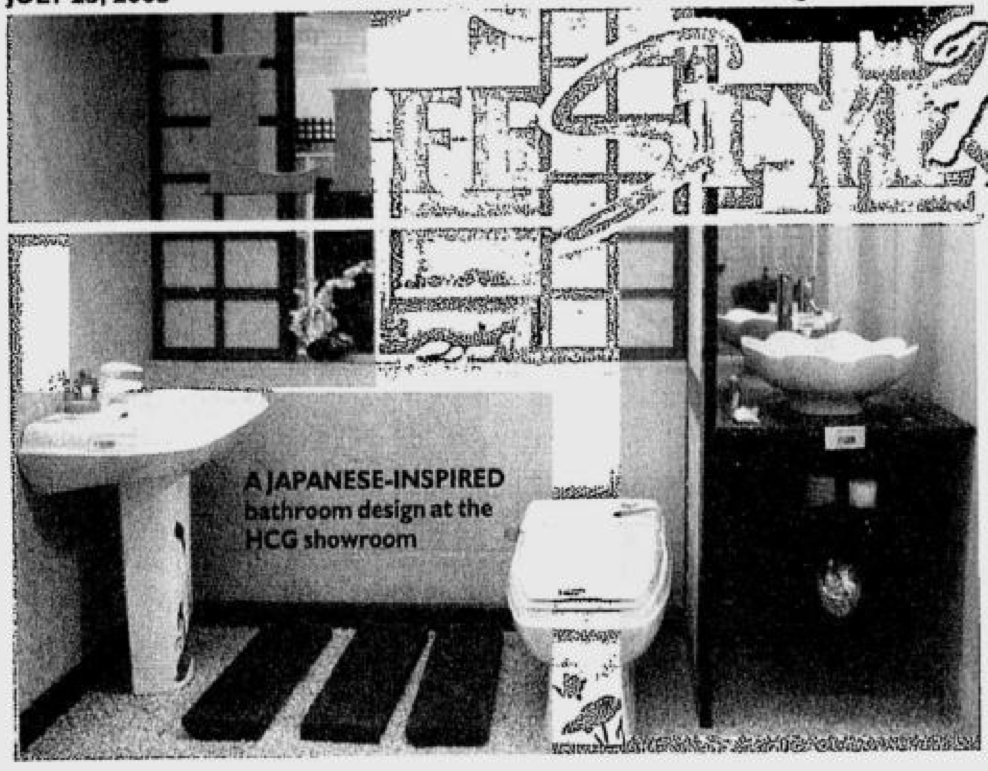


A JAPANESE-INSPIRED bathroom design at the HCG showroom

Taps, tubs and toilets have gone beyond mere hygiene fixtures, as HCG's success shows

Bathroom with a view

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Roger Carpio

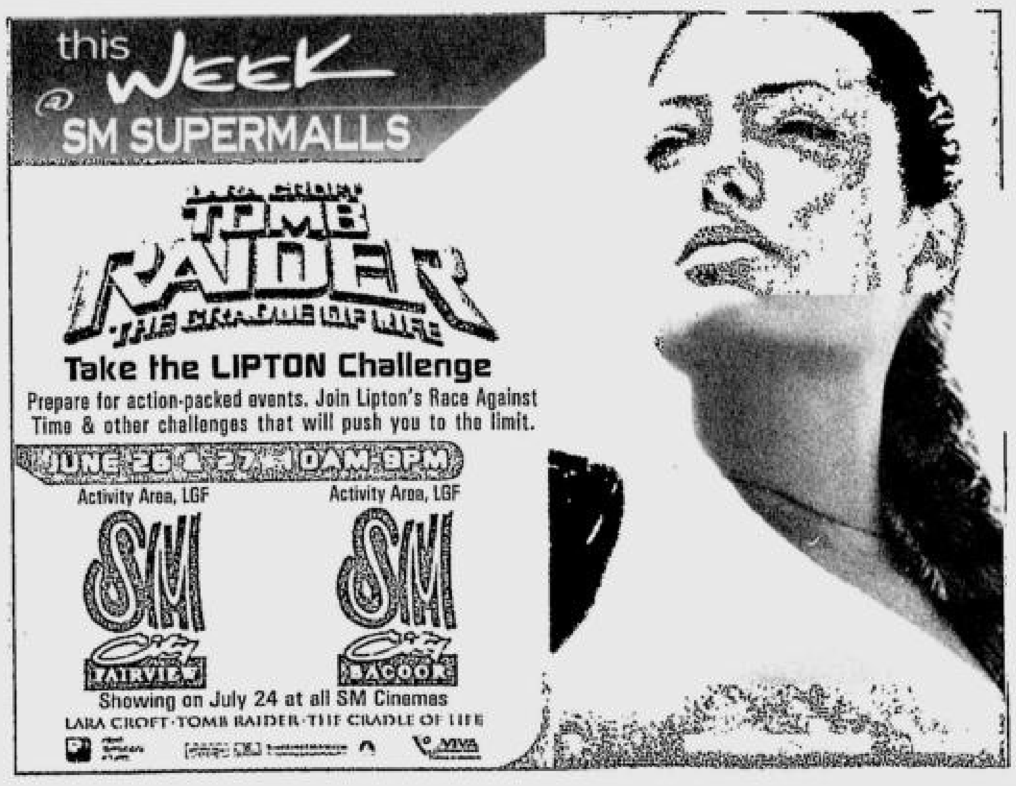
IN these days of luxury spas, a bathroom is no longer a mere shadow of its owner's personality; it reflects a lifestyle.

When Hocheng Group (HCG), a Taiwan-based bathroom fixtures and accessories company, came to the country in 1995, most Filipinos tended toward the traditional, conservative bathroom—the mandatory water closet, lavatory and shower. Who cared about the aesthetics of things?

When the company completed its Cavite plant in 1998, there was a dearth of better products in the market. Today, there are 400 HCG showrooms all over the country, the latest at the McDepot, 32nd Street, Global City, The Fort, Taguig.

"When they come in they want to buy the conventional toilet. But when they see the choices they change their minds," says Ming

BATHROOM/ F2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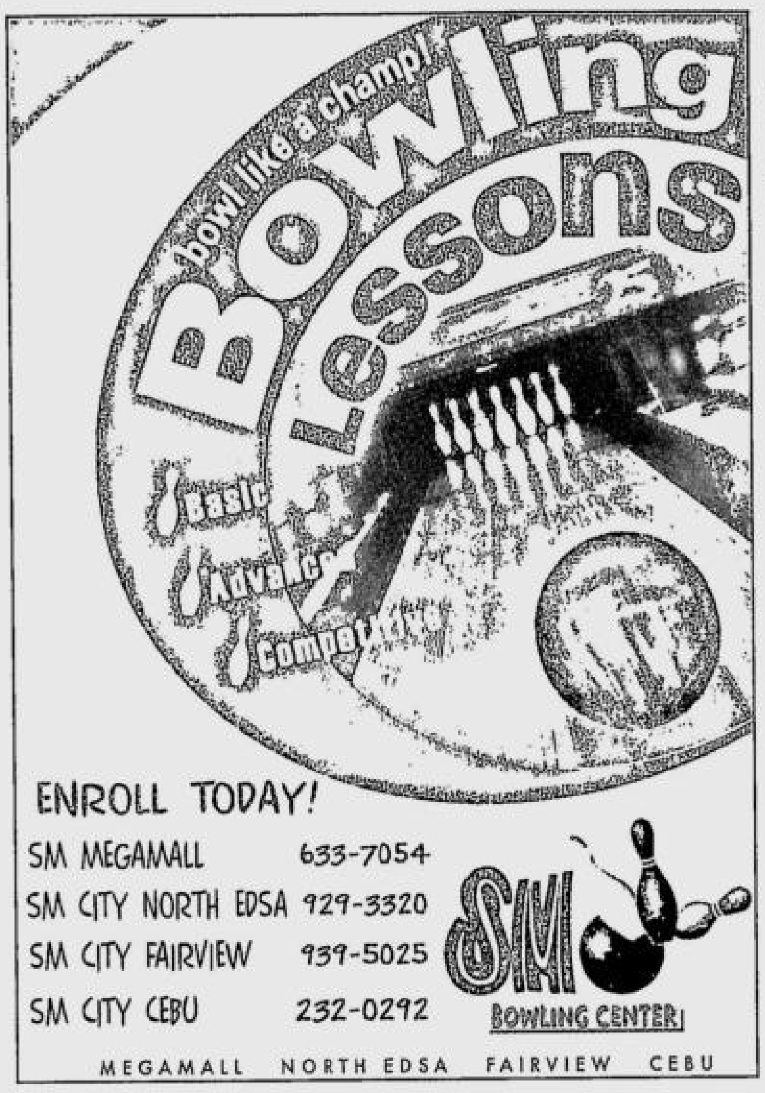
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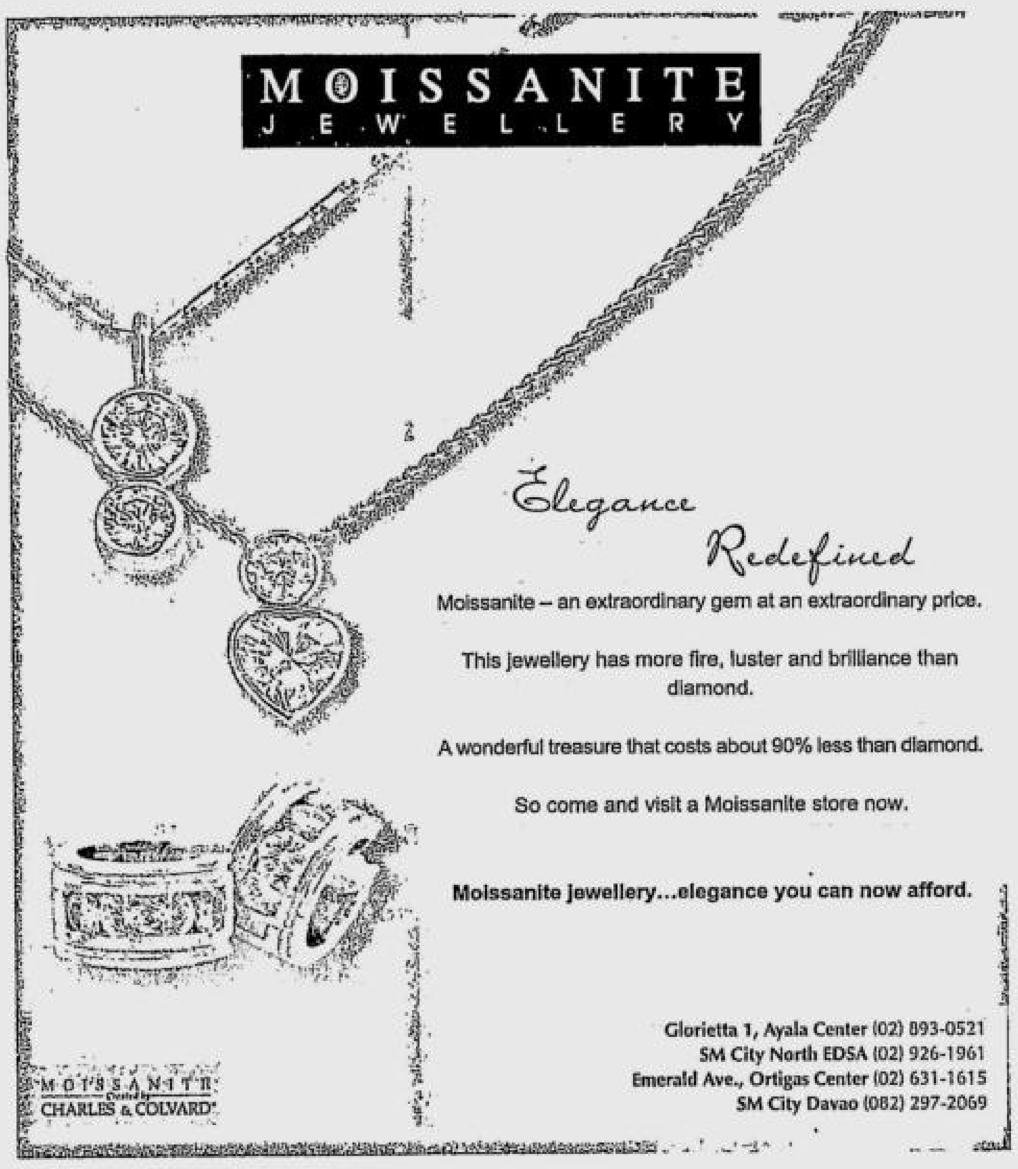
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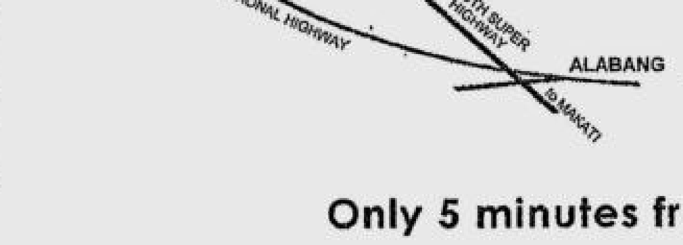

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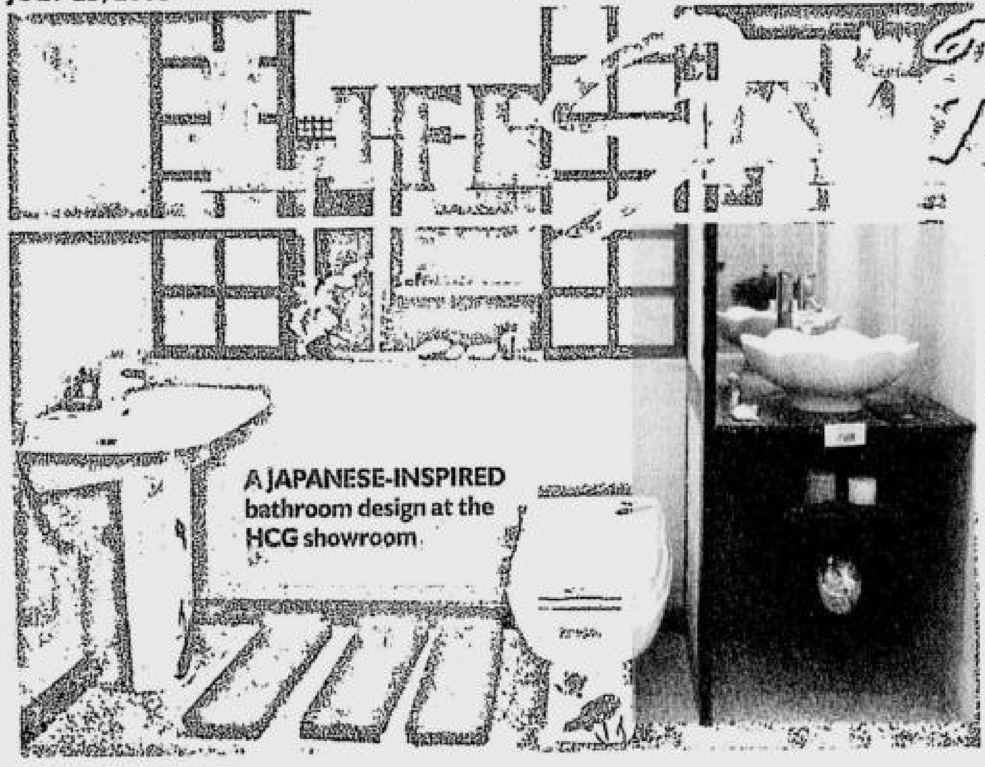

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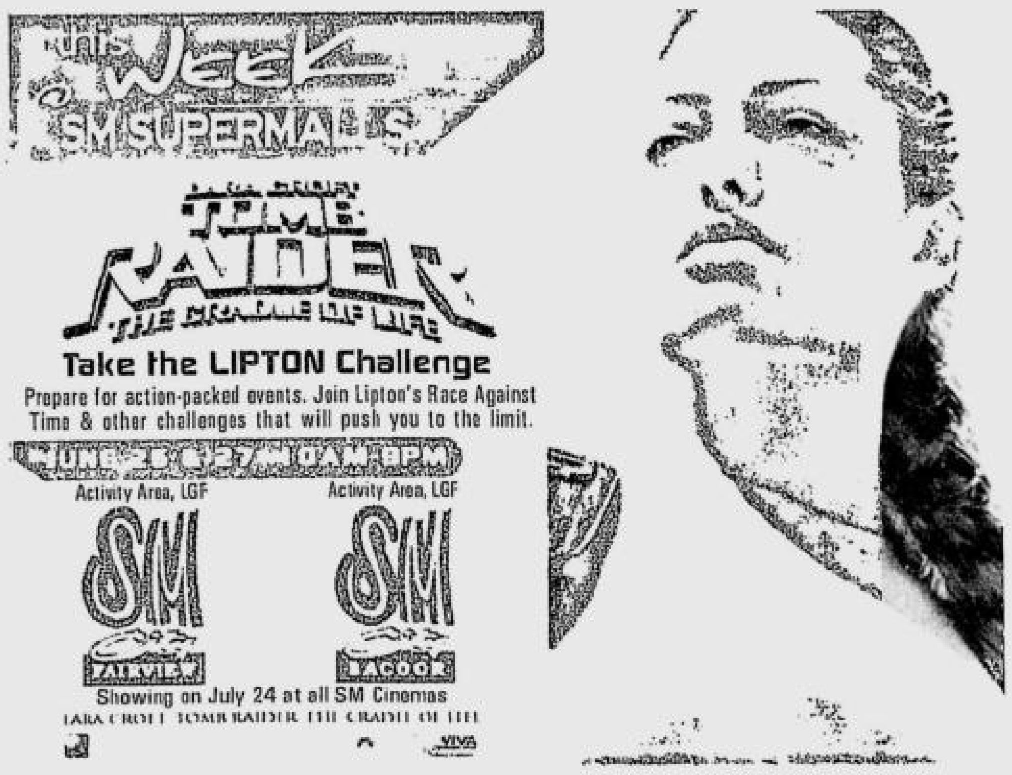
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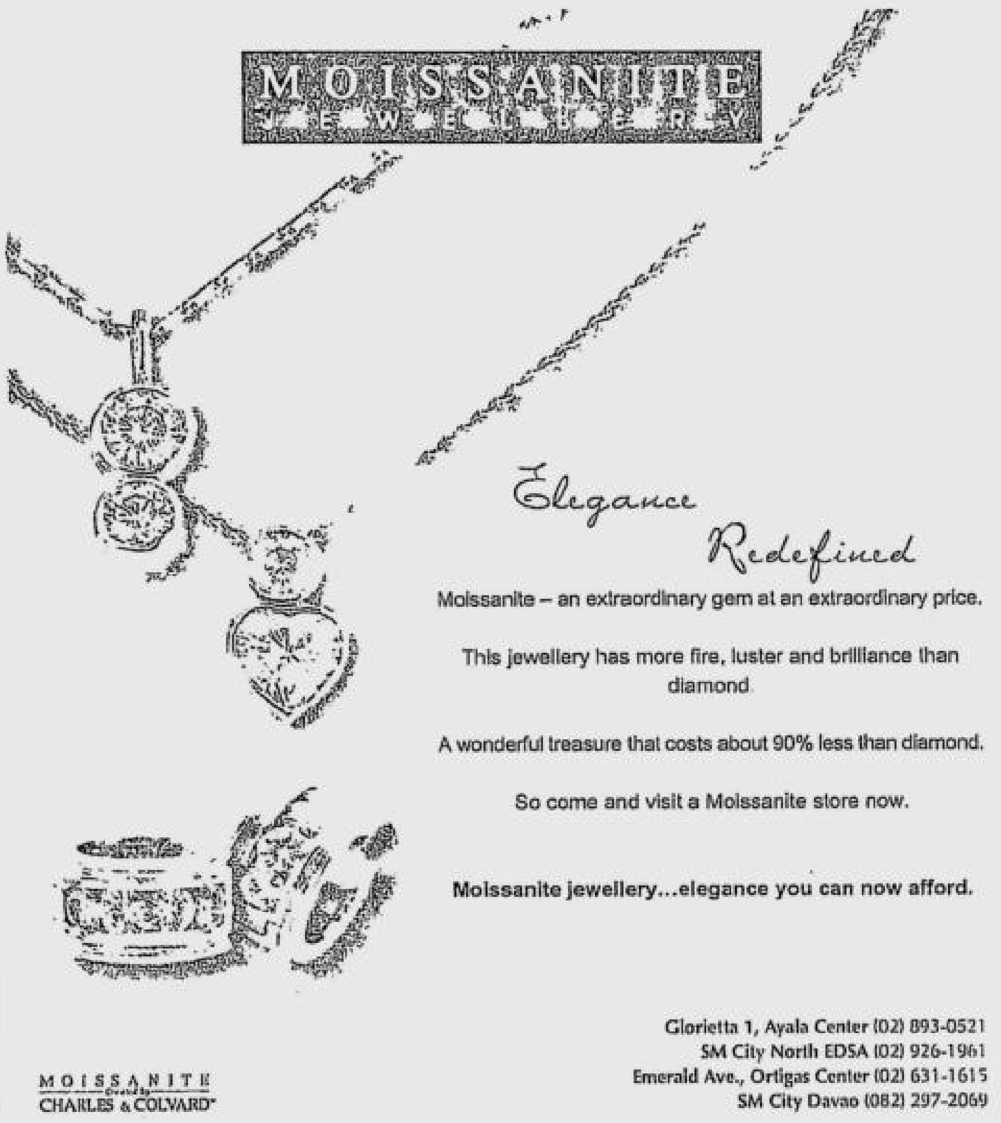
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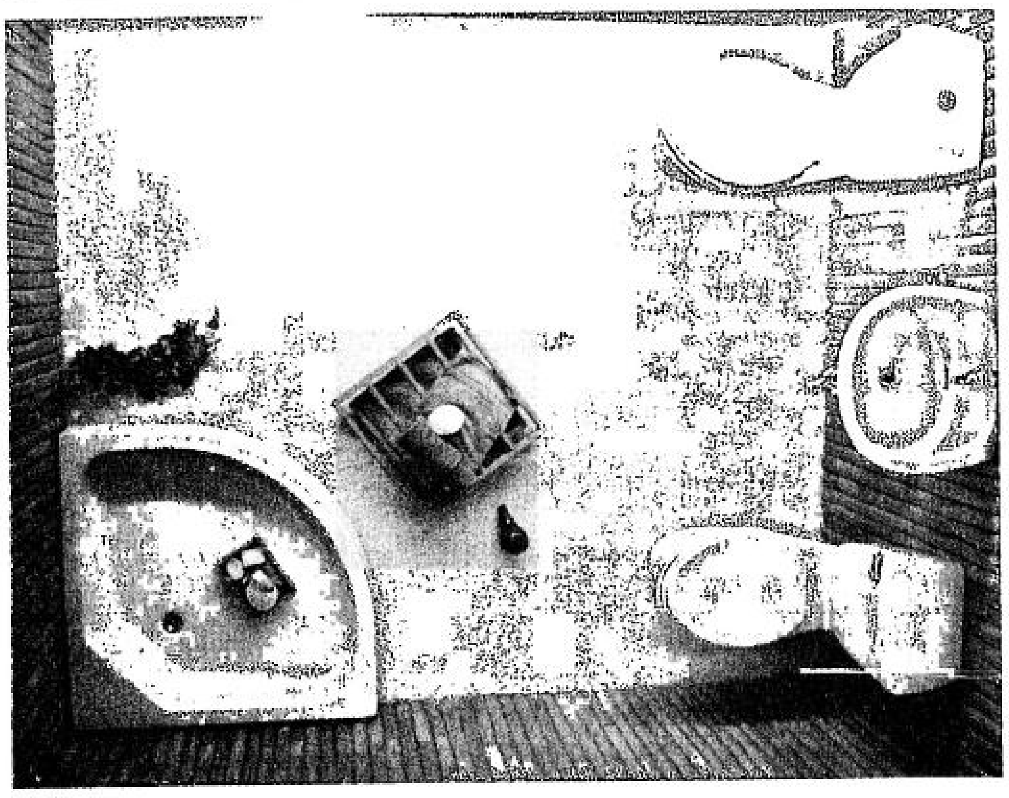

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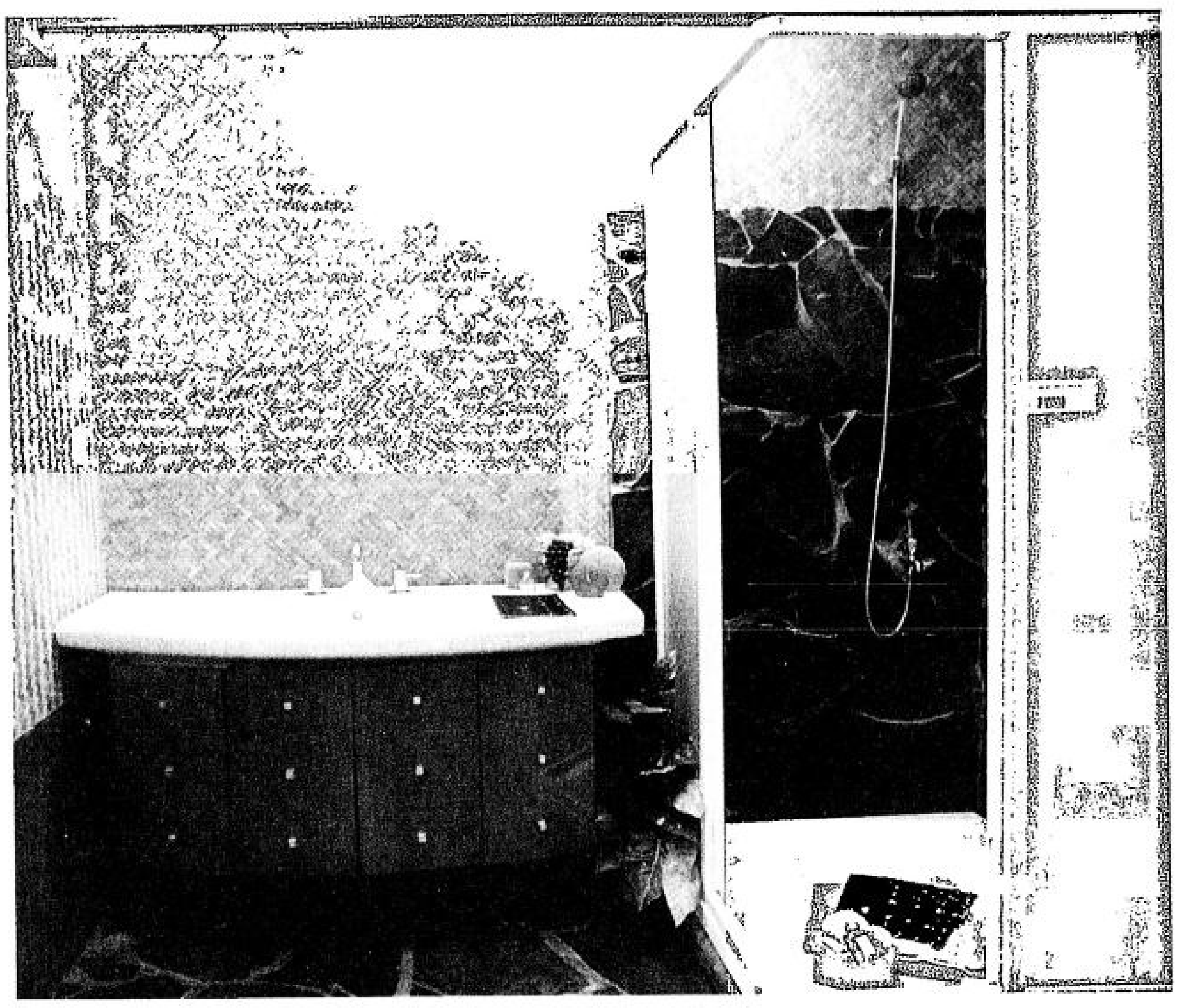


MAKE your bathroom statement by choosing fixtures that suit your lifestyle.

Bathroom with a view

From page F1

Lee, HCG project sales manager. A unique piece of counter basin, for example, can make a world of a difference.

Trends

If HCG's sale records say anything about trends, then Filipinos are now opting to have bathtubs in their homes. In fact, some clients insist on having one despite restricted space; they would rather sacrifice the space in the next room just to accommodate the tub.

Trends favor the handheld shower as opposed to the wall-hung, pedestal lavatories in common bathrooms, lever faucets instead of knobs, urinals in a few. Designs can be sensual, voluptuous with curved lip, smart, stylish, cool, cheerful, ethereal—depending on interpretation and, naturally, taste.

HCG prides itself as a creator of bathroom sculpture for more than 70 years now. Its founder, Hocheng Chiu, is said to have learned to sculpt before he could write. What the company consistently offers is a combination of the latest technology and design. It especially pays close attention to details not visible to the customer's eye.

"Even in our lower-end products, quality is never compromised," Lee says.

For instance, U2 water closets, one of its midrange brands, is equipped with the Fluidmaster tank fitting mechanism that guarantees over a million leak-free flushes.

So aside from looks, costumers can be assured of investing in lasting products. "We offer value for money, and actually mean it. Unlike other products in the market, HCG pre-installs everything the moment it receives an order, be it tank or lavatory fittings," Lee says.

Take the water closets, for instance. When bought outside, HCG people just get the tank with practically no gadget inside for, say, flushing. What usually happens, Lee says, is the plumber has to inform the owner to buy the necessary tank fittings. Not uncommonly, the fittings bought separately do not fit the tank.

"We take care of everything so that our costumers' only worry is the type, size or color of their choice, eliminating additional purchases and major headaches. HCG is truly a one-stop bathroom fixtures shop," Lee says.

Packages

Packages are available, too, in Premium (high-end), Selective (midrange) and Comfort (low-end). Finishes come in a range of colors, from soft gray, blue, pink, green and ivory to the wine red and American white finishes.

The Legato package (P30,000), one of the premium brands, includes a one-piece high tank water closet, lavatory with long pedestal, soap holder, paper holder, single-lever ceramic disc faucet, angle valves, steel-braided flexible hose and P-trap.

The low-end product packages can go from as high as P5,650 to as low as P3,400 for the works. Add a few thousand bucks and the pieces will be upgraded to HCG's latest ceramic innovation, Innoglaze. Innoglaze has anti-dirt and anti-bacteria properties that do not trap dirt and inhibit the growth of bacteria.

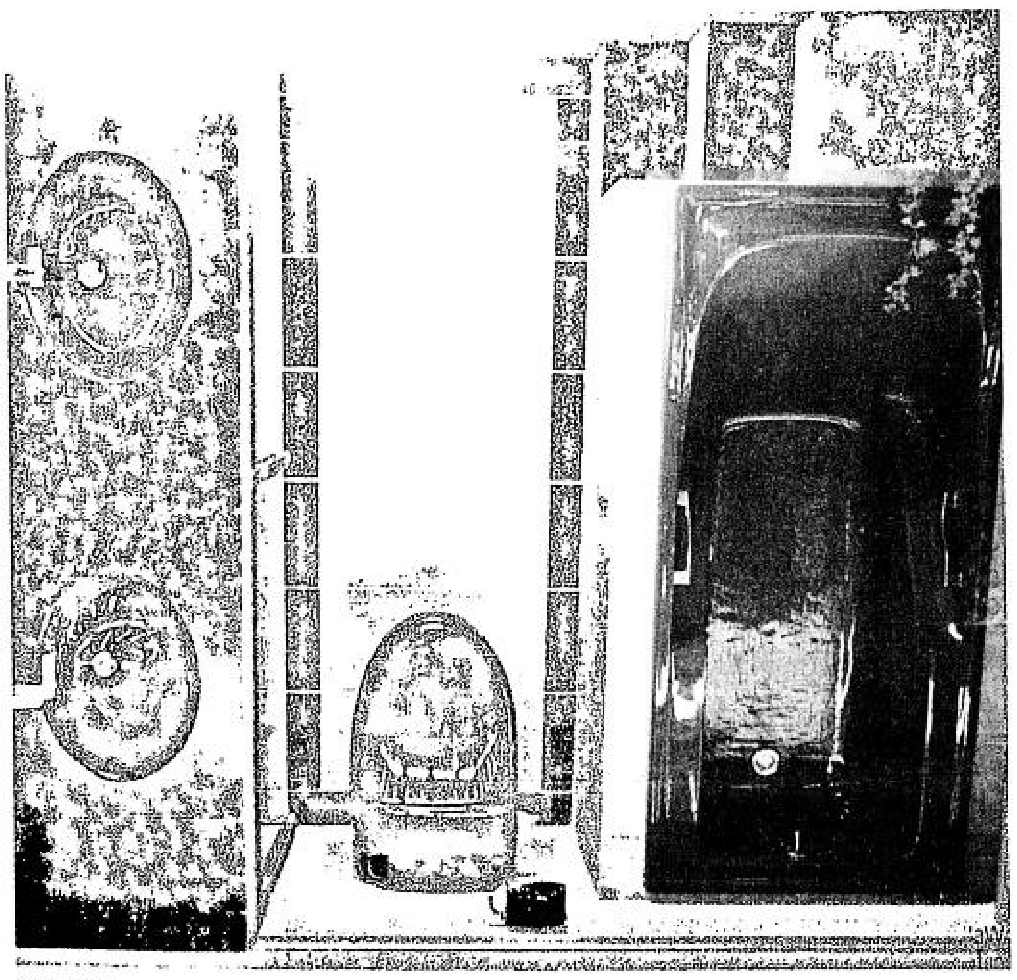
"Hygiene is one of our top priorities, especially since we make products for the bathroom," Lee says. She says HCG fixtures are glazed to smoothness all over to discourage dirt and bacteria from clinging on, whether it's Innoglaze or not. She adds that many rival manufacturers only glaze the front portion of their products.

Lee says the HCG Cavite plant exports 80 percent of its bathroom pieces worldwide. In Canada, for instance, the products go under the brand name Legend. Legend is known for combining the elements of ceramic and wood, and is also locally available.

Other accessories from HCG are mirrors with anti-moisture technology, faucets, soap dish, towel ring/bar, cosmetic shelf, bidet, shower pan, and more.

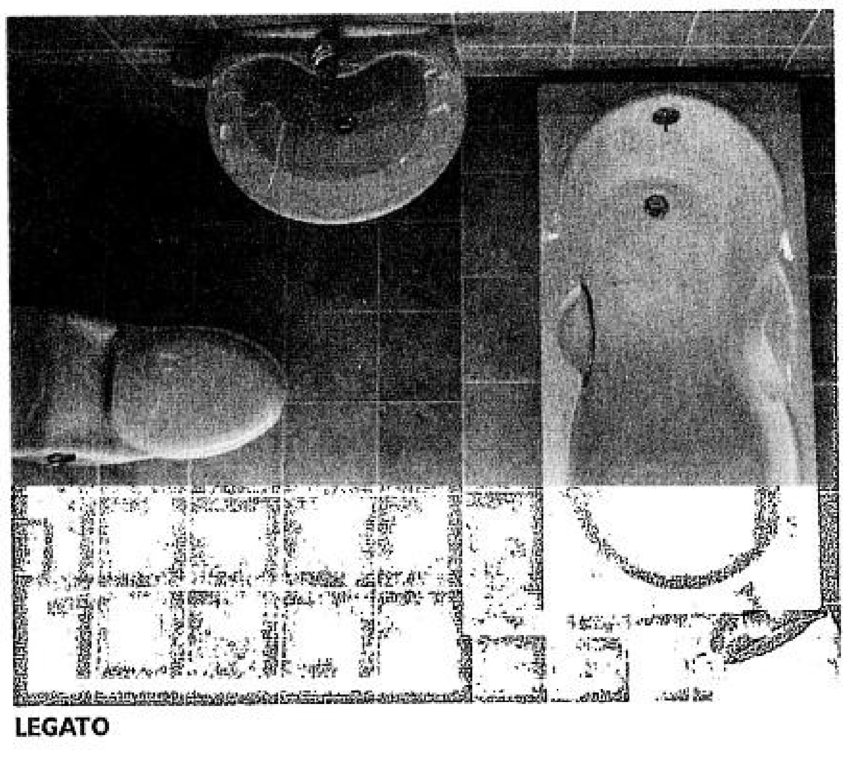
For the Filipino bathroom, anything goes just doesn't do anymore.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph



JUPITER

ACCESSORIES such as towel rings or handles, soap dish, anti-moisture mirrors and more are also available.



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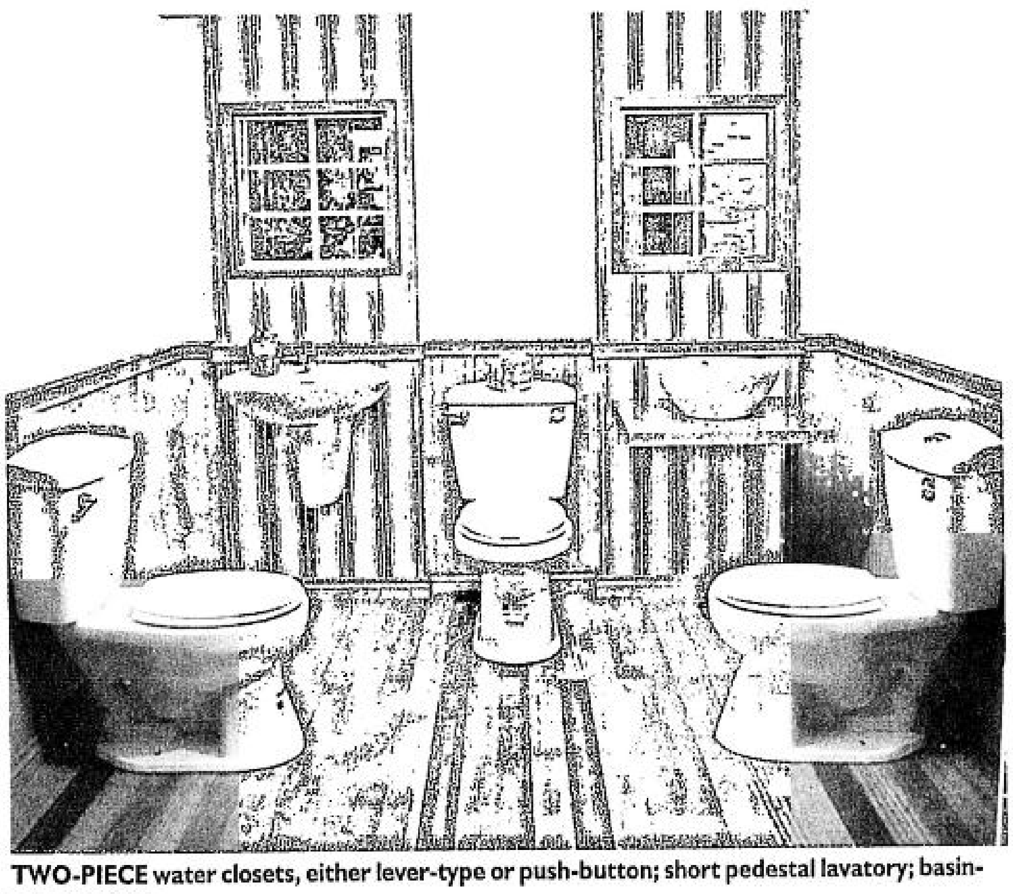

TWO-PIECE water closets, either lever-type or push-button; short pedestal lavatory; basin-type lavatory

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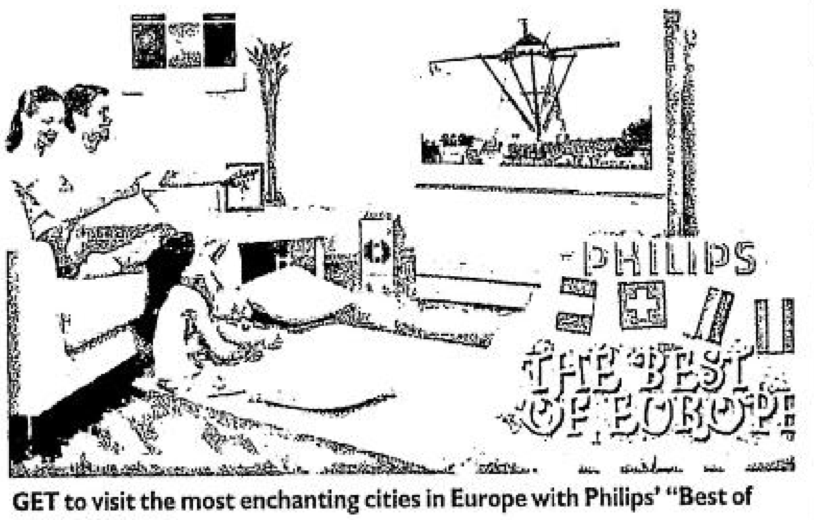

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Talk on market research at Filipino franchise show

BRAD Geiser, chief strategic and research consultant of Geiser Maclang Communications, Inc., will deliver a talk on "Market Research and PR: Big Business Weapons for Small- and Medium-Sized Entrepreneurs" today, 4 p.m., at the exhibition stage area of the 2nd Filipino Franchise Show, ongoing until July 27 at Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall. Call 890-1423 to 24, 0917-894GMCI

GOINGS ON

TRADE EXHIBIT. Don Bosco Technical College will hold its trade exhibit, featuring mechanical inventions and innovative gadgets.

"Galing Busko, Galing Busko" on July 28-30 at Glorietta 3 in Makati City.

PERFORMANCE. The Philippine High School for the Arts will present a piano and violin performance of Mariel Ilusorio and German violinist Angelo Bard on July 27, 7 p.m., at National Arts Center Theater in Los Baños, Laguna. Admission is free.

SHOWDOWN. The Beyblade showdown goes to Festival Supermall at Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa on July 27, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

SEMINAR. Corban Daycare and Tutorial Center will hold English and Writing seminars for children starting July 26, 9-11 a.m. Corban is located at 6F, MB Aguirre Bldg., President's Ave. cor. Elizalde Sts., Sucat Parañaque. Call 842-6665/809-3050.

DISCOUNT. The Living Well homestore and cafe invites you to A Week of Living Well on July 26-Aug. 3. Enjoy discounts of up to 70 percent. The Living Well home store and cafe is at the 3/F, The Podium, Pasig City. Call 6389590.

HOMECOMING. St. Joseph's College, QC high school batch '78 is celebrating a three-day silver jubilee homecoming on Aug. 1, 3 and 10. Call 740-7777/712-1803; 638-3838; 913-8075.

POST-COURSE PROGRAM. Businessmaker Academy, a business and livelihood training center that offers continuous adult education, launches its post course support program. Call 687-4445/3416/4645.

BENEFIT CONCERT. The Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines will hold a benefit concert, Sing for Hope, featuring Forte and Acoustic Dream on July 29 at Merk's Bar Bistro,3/L,Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 896-1863/756 and 890-6325.

CALL FOR ENTRIES. Wild Vines presents Fashionista 2K3 search for young designers. Participants must submit their entries on or before July 31 at World Impact Communications, Inc., Unit 237, Chateau Verde, Gate 2, Valle Verde 1, E. Rodriguez Ave., Pasig City. Call 671-1250/1764/2391.

FRANCHISE SHOW. The 2nd Filipino Franchise Show will be held July 25-27 at Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong.

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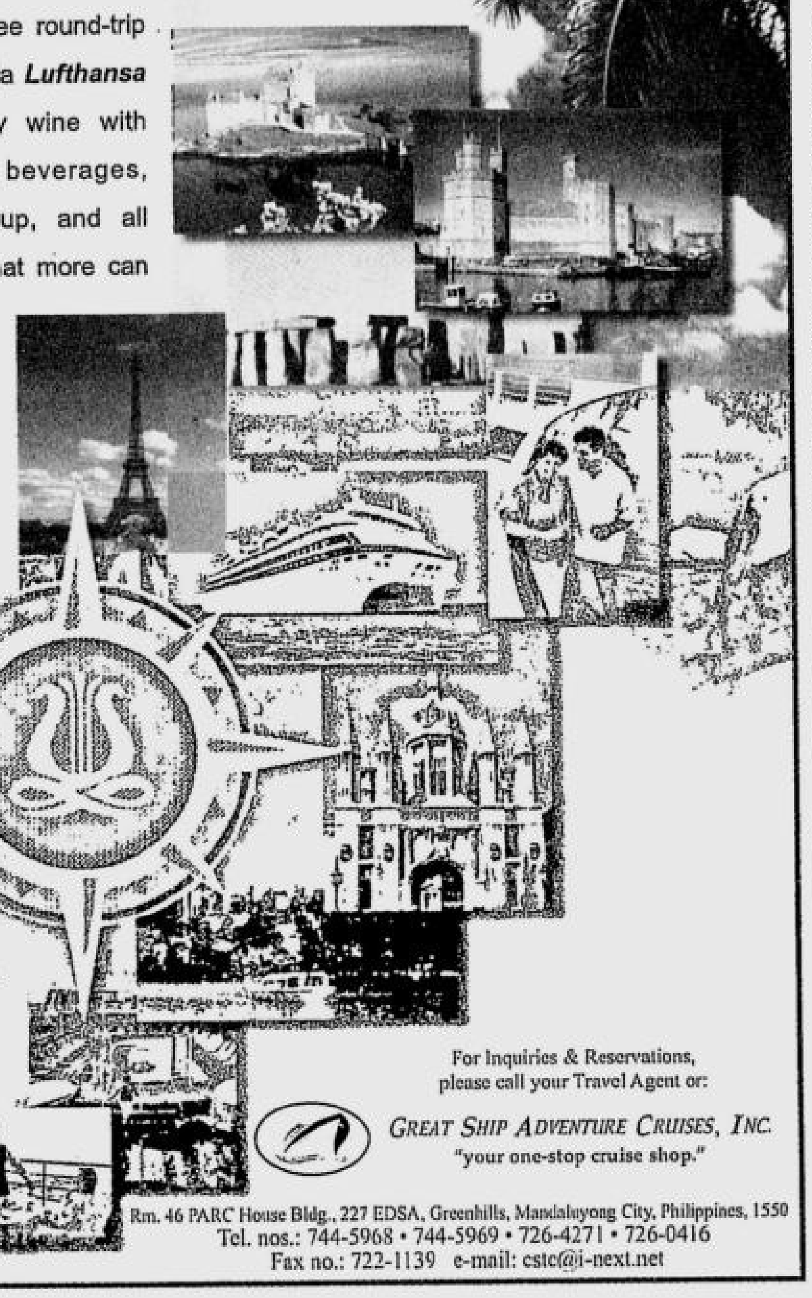

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CAGED CUBS keep busy with an ice block that challenges them to use all their animal wits to get to the frozen food inside.

Zoo tenants are happy to work hard for their food

Captive animals die not just because of improper food but also because they have trouble adjusting to being caged

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

MEETING with enrichment coordinator Mathew van Lierop of South Africa's Johannesburg Zoo taught us several things about caring for zoo animals and making them happy. So interesting were those lessons that, as we said last week, we'd let Mathew explain more about them.

First of all, Mathew informs us, an enrichment program may be applied not just on zoo animals but on others as well like pets and even some of those in the wild.

Basically, an enrichment program aims to "stimulate captive animals and ensure that they live in a less stressed environment." When animals are free from stress, they do not manifest aberrant behavior, they breed better, are more active, and are mentally and physically healthier.

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Catch up on your child's growth

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Before you panic, here are some facts to help you catch up on what you need to know about your child's growth.

GROWTH FALTERING

- Alternatively called Stunted Growth, it is when a child's growth slows down so his weight and height fall below normal for his age
- Some children, ages 1 year to 10 years old, experience GROWTH FALTERING
- Studies say 50% of children below five years old may experience GROWTH FALTERING

WHAT CAUSES GROWTH FALTERING

- **The child is a picky eater** - does he leave out the veggies? Doesn't he eat anything but fried chicken?
- **The child skips healthy meals** - does he snack too often or at the wrong time, it dulls his appetite for real meals?.
- **The child has no appetite due to illness**

All these result to a child's lack of essential nutrients his body needs to grow at a rate appropriate to his age. Deficiencies in vitamins and minerals also account for the noticeable lag in a child's growth.

CATCH-UP GROWTH IS THE KEY

Catch-up growth is to enable your child to grow in height and weight faster than usual, especially after experiencing growth faltering. **Catch-up growth** therefore helps your child achieve the physical growth normal for his age. To do this is the key since some children fail to gain weight or grow in height with normal feeding. So crucial is **Catch-up growth**, pediatricians recommend **Pediasure** to support every parent's effort to succeed in nurturing their children's growth.

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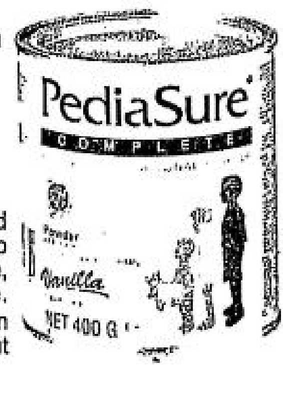

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Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on Kodak Max

Philippe Lhuillier and wife Edna recently celebrated their coral wedding anniversary in the only way they knew how—with great style

AFTER JOKING around about getting a gift made of coral to celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary, Philippine Ambassador to Italy **Philippe J. Lhuillier** announced to his wife, Dumaguete's **Edna Diago**, that they would instead celebrate the momentous occasion at home with their pals and *famille*, dahlings.

With only a couple of weeks' notice, radiant Edna began her preparations thousands of miles away in Rome. A seasoned hostess, she excitedly had her lush home and landscaping revitalized, sent out eye-catching invitations and organized the caterers, the dependable and delectable La Tasca, for starters.

Edna then set out to make sure that her guests would enjoy the event regardless of weather, with the use of elegant tents and softly-lit chandeliers to set the mood.

The celebrant's 200-or-so invitees were entertained with excellently prepared buffet tables and endless drinks, with a five-member acoustic band for background music.

Apres dinner, *palanggas*, a warm speech was made by none other than Mr. Vice President himself, **Teofisto Guingona Jr.**, followed by an affectionate and touching oratory by Edna about, as she called it, "my culminated experience of love and happiness in my 35 years of marriage to the ambassador."

Next came the ambassador's speech, which was a reiteration of "my love and dedication to my wife Edna." Eldest son and business entrepreneur **Jean Henri** (whose second child is due at any moment), jetted back from the US for this grand occasion, and all the other children gave the last heartwarming speeches of the evening.

Although it was a Sunday, that didn't stop the swell crowd from dancing to the euphoric tunes of the Spirit of '67 Band, which energized the invitees way past Cinderella's bed time.

El simpatico Ambassador **Enrique Hubbard** de Mexico and his wife, with their daughter **Marianita**; former Sen. **Kit Tatad** and his wife; Sen. **John Osmeña**; and *Señor* **Babes Romualdes** were present.

Walking in late-ish was **Max Soliven**, who had everyone looking my way, and his, as he stood in front of my table.

Baby Arenas stood up to say "hello" as she approached him, and he said, "Ahh, here's my favorite Baby."

Not far behind was his wife, **Preciosa S.**, who chatted with some guests at the entrance of the residence, showing her arm in a cast with a couple of wires sticking out. One guest jokingly told her, "How did you get that, did Max push you?" She laughed and said, "No, I accidentally slipped."

Johnny Litton welcomed Max and escorted him all around from table to table and then to the buffet table, after which he took photos of him with some of his friends, such as **Mayenne Carmona** and **Jojo Zabarte**, making one guest comment, "Is Johnny one of the hosts here?"

Well, no, *palanggas*, he was not!

Manuel Collantes and **Chito Madrigal C.**; award-winning actor, handsome **Albert Martinez**; popular **Raymond Moreno** and his wife **Marrot M.**; Dr. **Daniel Vazquez** and his adorable **Ising Madrigal**; super couple Rep. **Miguel Romero** and his wife **Menchu R.**; **Beatrice Campos**; **Butch Campos** and wife; Col. **Tony Gana** and his wife; Dr. **Delfin Samson**; and the Lhuillier *famille* grand matriarch, Doña **Angelita J. Lhuillier**, who jetted in from not-too-far Cebu to be at her son's big day, were just some of the glitzy set that celebrated 35 years of this couple's togetherness.

It's more than what *moi* can say about other couples that don't last two years.

Bing de Guzman's big day

Bing de Guzman, ING's chief executive officer in the Asia Pacific and recipient of the 2003 ING Business Leadership Award, threw a bash to celebrate another fab year of his super-successful life.

The party was held at the popular Bar and Billiards Room of the *tres* chic Raffles Hotel in Singapore. The well-heeled invitees were completely impressed by the entertainers, headed by the talented duo of **Michael Williams** and **Bituin Escalante**.

And for a dash of more fun, there were the well-applauded breakdancers from American School, superbly organized by **Bing** and **Kathy de G**'s daughter, **Amanda**.

Many of the international invitees jetted in from Bali, Manille, Thailand, Hong Kong and the US of A, plus anyone who is somebody in Singapore.

At dinner time, one had a choice of different menus, excellently catered by the different superb restaurants of Raffles Hotel—Chinese food from Empress Room; Japanese food from Barry's Kitchen; steaks and rack of lamb from Long Bar Steak House; and Indian food from Tiffin Room.

The delicious menu had a hotshot commenting, "I wish my wife came along, because a sure way not to break my diet is to let my wife talk and talk, which gives me no time to eat."

A little before dinner, a top Singapore society lass who couldn't decide what to do when she saw all the buffet tables asked Kathy, "I'm putting on too much weight. What shall I do?"

Kathy advised her, "Push yourself away from the table three times a day, darling."

Well, she took the advice and stuck to her champagne drink instead all night long, *palanggas*.

With all the dancing that took place *apres* dinner, Bing and Kathy ordered the yummy Cantonese congee to be served at midnight, which had the guests partying till around 2:30 a.m.

"This is really unusual in Singapore," said the happy celebrator.

But then Kathy has always been known to entertain her guests in the very best way, and what the heck, that's what a great party is all about.

SUPER cool Wendy Strong

SIMPATICO **business magnate Paqui Ortigas**

BABY Yulo

JOSEPHINE Knox

EDNA Lhuillier, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Philippe Lhuiller and Jean Henri Lhuillier

TALL, dashing and good-looking Monsi Diago with Camille Lhuillier and Tiffy Mathay

SUPER PALS. Man of all seasons Andrew Lhuillier with sultry beauty Vivian Vicente

DUMAGUETE'S women of substance: Maricor Banot Nieto and Beauty Diago

RAQUEL Mathay and Edna Lhuillier

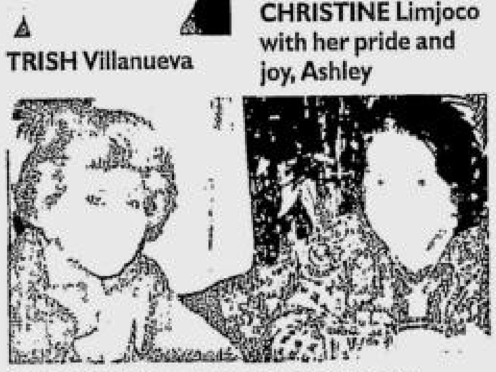
SMILE for posterity. Jose Romero, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Nini and Gary Teves, Ambassador Philippe Lhuillier, Randy Limjoco, former Sen. Kit Tatad and Jimmy Ladao; (seated) Ruth Guingona, Menchu Romero and Cecille Limjoco

MONICA and Roy Tirtadji, vice chairman of Lippo Bank Indonesia, with Kathy de Guzman

DEBBIE and Bradley Gardner, owner of Begawan Jiri, a top resort in Bali featured in last January's Vogue magazine

TRISH Villanueva

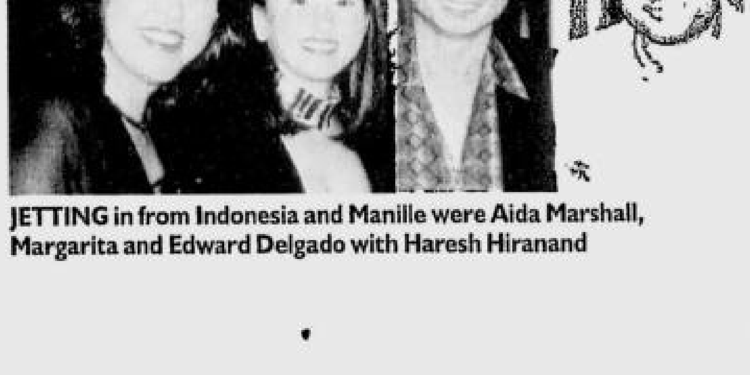
CHRISTINE Limjoco with her pride and joy, Ashley


THE GRAND matriarch Doña Angelita Lhuillier with Chat Pulo

ITALIAN Ambassador Umberto Colesanti and Mexican Ambassador Enrique Hubbard

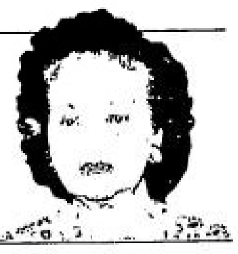
BIRTHDAY man Renato de Guzman with Singapore's society ladies Lily Tanmizi, Wendy Yap, Hedy Chua and Ivy Angkosobroto

THE HOSTESS, lady of style Kathy de G., with Ernesto Bedmar, an Argentinean architect based in Singapore, and Bernard Teo MD of Club 21


JETTING in from Indonesia and Manille were Aida Marshall, Margarita and Edward Delgado with Haresh Hiranand

SUPER pals of Kathy—Allison and Ben Falloon who jetted in from Hong Kong, and Christopher Jackson from Thailand

Maternal she's not



LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I am writing this for my girlfriend Sid whom I love dearly and wish to marry soon.

The problem is her mother. My girlfriend grew up (without) experiencing tenderness from her mother; she is the only daughter, with two older brothers who now have their own lives and families, but who also never felt love and tenderness from their mother.

Sid works for her father, a justice. Her father just bears all of the mother's tantrums and weird ways. Sid is very close to her father and they get along well. I always thought that perhaps her mother was jealous because of the closeness of father and daughter.

A few days ago Sid called me up crying because her mother became irrational again and berated her for some (minor) issues. She does not only verbally abuse Sid but physically maltreats her, too. I feel so helpless every time this happens. At times I want to rush to her aid and pounce on her mother but, of course, I will not do that. I can only comfort her and tell her all this will be over as soon as we get married but, until then, how can she live in peace?

She still lives in the family abode and dutifully gives her mother money every week. Despite this, the mother remains mean and hurtful. Are there mothers like Sid's?

BUTCH

I hope no other mother on this earth is like your future mother-in-law. At this point, I do not think she can change her ways. As you surely know, there is the saying that one cannot teach an old dog new tricks.

You are right, just stay calm. Advise your girlfriend just to keep quiet when her mother berates her, but when she sees that her mother is going to slap her, she should move away.

This is not to say that I am siding with the mother, but we should also remember the adage that we should not criticize until we know what the other person has been through. Maybe the mother suffered trauma in the past or disappointments, or perhaps she was not brought up properly.

Maybe what she needs is to see a psychotherapist, although I'm sure she would not agree to it. (You did request for my insight).

You were correct, telling her to stay calm, and that her burden would end as soon as you got married. You seem to have everyone on your side—her father, your mother, and her brothers who also suffered from the same treatment in the past.

You did not mention if you also have a job, like Sid. If you do, then it is time to make plans for a wedding.

You have your own lives to live, and you have to look to the future.

You don't need a big wedding celebration. Just invite your closest friends and relatives. The *pamamanhikan* will not be a problem. Her father and her brothers and your mother should attend. This way, her mother will not have a chance to be angry, especially if you bring delicious dishes she will enjoy. (Now, this is also an aside: if her father and your mother agree, you can get married in secret. But, of course, you have to conform with all legal requirements).

I also suggest that the two of you attend a Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE) Seminar. You do not have to be Catholics. People of other faiths have attended it and were so delighted that the seminar allowed open discussions. It is held on weekends.

On Aug. 22-24, Sept. 26-28 and Oct. 24-26, the CEE will be held at Cenacle Home, 59 Nicanor Reyes St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For more information, call Vinchy and Elisha Lirios, tel. 721-4153, or Ike and Anna Madamba, 726-6568.

You might even receive advice about Sid's mother.

Good luck. More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.

To sell old coins

Some months ago, you mentioned where to sell old coins. I want to sell mine. I tried calling Mr. Albino's telephone number, but nobody answered. Can you please tell me his exact address?

EDIELINE

Three others have had the same problem. Maybe you called on a Sunday or before his office opened. The address is 1184-F A. Mabini, Ermita, Manila, near Arquiza.

But call 524-0548 first before going there to make sure he will be around.

Zoo animals are happy to work . . .

From page G1

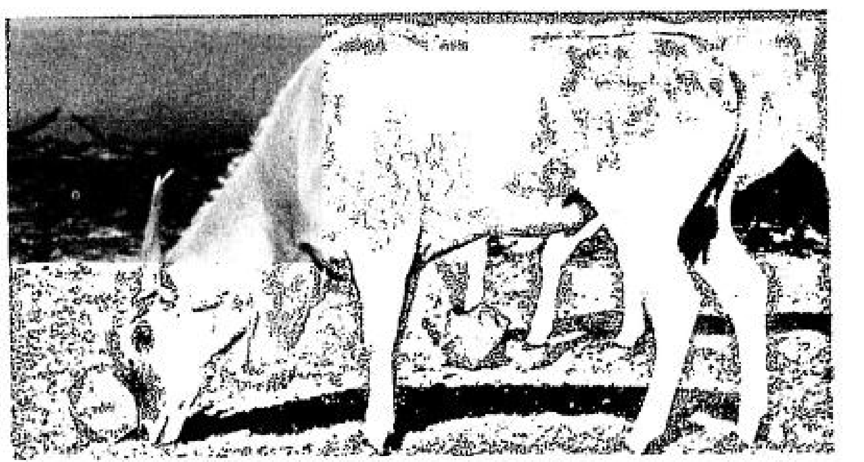
ers that, in the past, many of the animals in our zoos seemed to just give up and die. It is now established that many zoo animals die not just because they lack proper food but also because, like any prisoner, they feel lonely and have a hard time adjusting to their enclosed surroundings. In their idleness, they become lazy and unhappy.

This is where an enrichment program, like the one Mathew works on, comes in. At the end of the program, when it is time to release the animals back to their natural habitats, the animals will be able to go on with their lives in the wild. They would not have lost their ability to fend for themselves and thrive as they used to. That is perhaps the best gift humans can give to the creatures who share the earth with them.

So Mathew works on the principle that keeping captive animals healthy and happy is a matter of keeping them busy and doing much of what they used to do before captivity. This means keeping all their five senses stimulated, a fact that contributes to maintaining the breeding population of endangered or other exotic species, and assuring them long lives.

Mathew and his staff in the zoo keep the animals busy by utilizing objects available around them, often recycling these to suit particular purposes. Some animals, like monkeys, are fortunate in that they are usually given branches or tree stands which allow them to swing from branch to branch as is their natural tendency. But other animals who must dig or hunt for their food have a harder time because their enclosures do not give them a chance to do that.

MATHEW van Lierop unmolds an ice block for the seals.



ELAND push decahedron balls to dislodge the food inside— one way for them to get much-needed exercise.

So, enter the Enrichment Coordinator who is tasked with providing them with substitutes or alternatives to get them active.

In the gorilla's holding area, for example, several logs are set on the ground so they can be pushed around. There are holes drilled into them into which pieces of foodstuff are tucked. The idea is to get the gorillas to use their hands or nails and teeth to get to the food, thus making them exercise as they use their natural abilities and instincts while they feed themselves.

The drilled-hole idea is also used in other equipment. The giraffe, with its long neck, normally feeds in the wild by collecting leaves from the high reaches of trees with its tongue. Thus, it is likely to lose this ability if it is continuously "spoon-fed" with the commercial diets in a zoo. To counter this, Mathew designed a bucket with a small access hole from where tidbits of food—leaves and whatever else a giraffe loves to eat—can be retrieved.

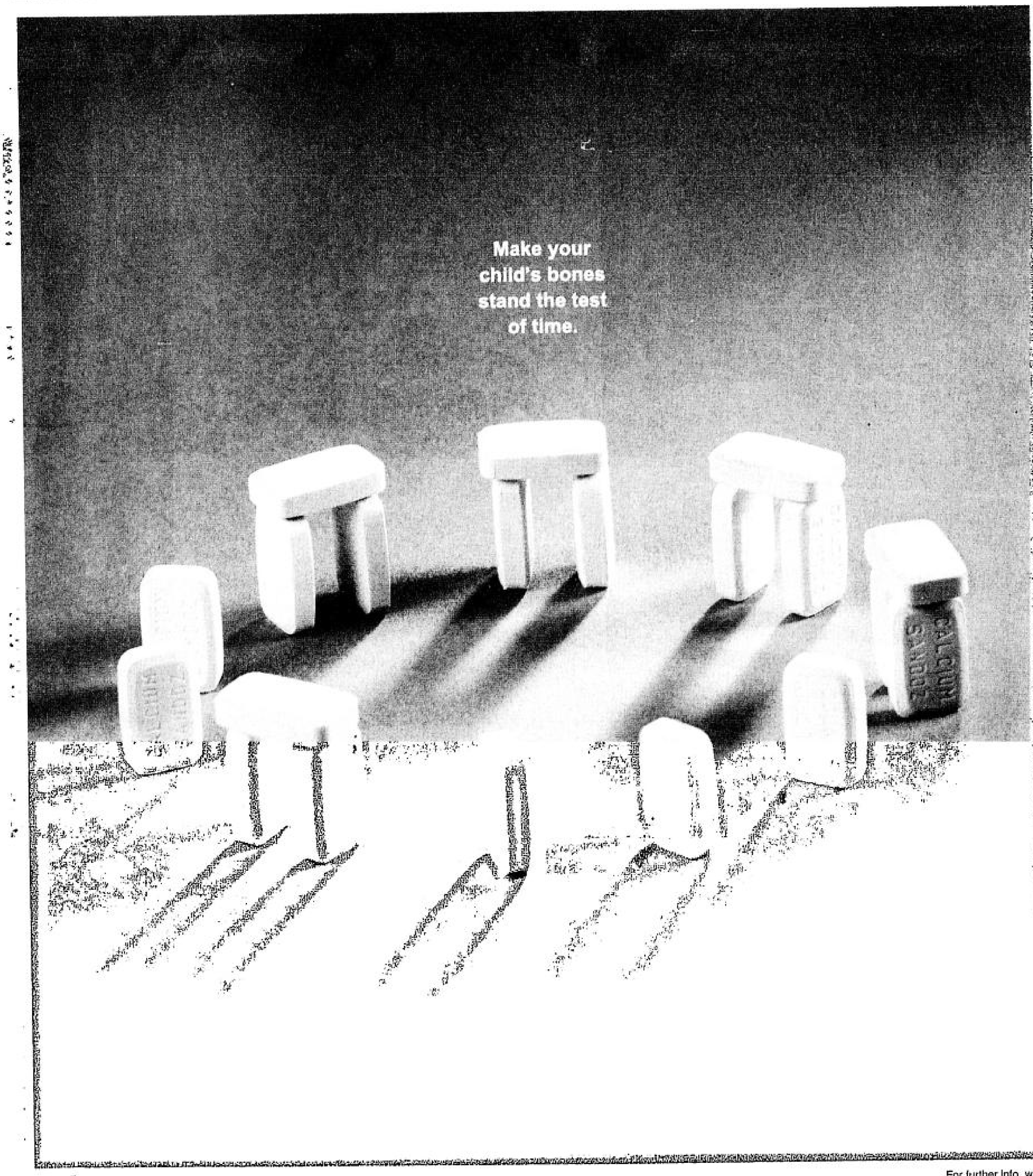
The eland, the largest antelope in South Africa, are given decahedron (ten-sided) balls to push around. The balls, filled with food cubes tucked into a single hole, are pushed around until the food bits fall out and the eland can eat them.

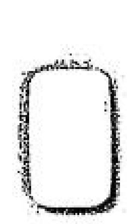
Beside decahedron balls, PVC (polyvinyl chloride) pipes are used as well. Small holes are drilled into the pipes, which are sealed at both ends. Like the balls, the pipes must be moved around to dislodge the food bits in them. The method not only gives the animals something to play with, it allows them to feed while stimulating foraging abilities and extending feeding time.

Another interesting application of this "find-the-food-to-eat-it" principle is the use of ice blocks in which meat and blood and other foodstuff have been frozen. The ice blocks are tossed to the animals who, by the smell, are attracted to the blocks and start licking and lapping away. As the ice block melts, the taste intensifies, and so again we find that the animal has been kept busy working to get to the core of the ice block to feed itself.

The reason for such feeding and playing methods, repeats Mathew, is to make the animals busy, happy and ready to resume their old lives once they return to the wild. "Returning-to-the-wild" is another aspect of zoo management that drives much of what enrichment coordination does. We wonder how much of that—if at all—is applied in our zoos. Mathew stresses that the program is meant to make captive animals live longer and, thus, constitute a very important part of conservation efforts.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com





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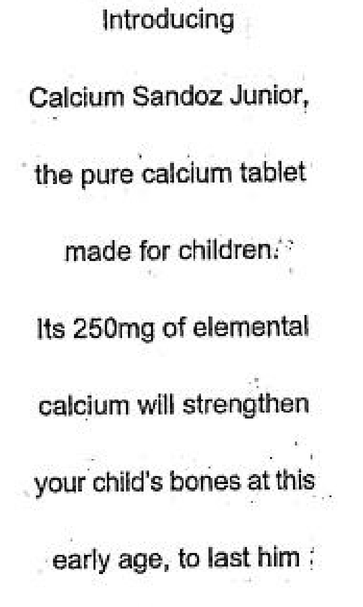

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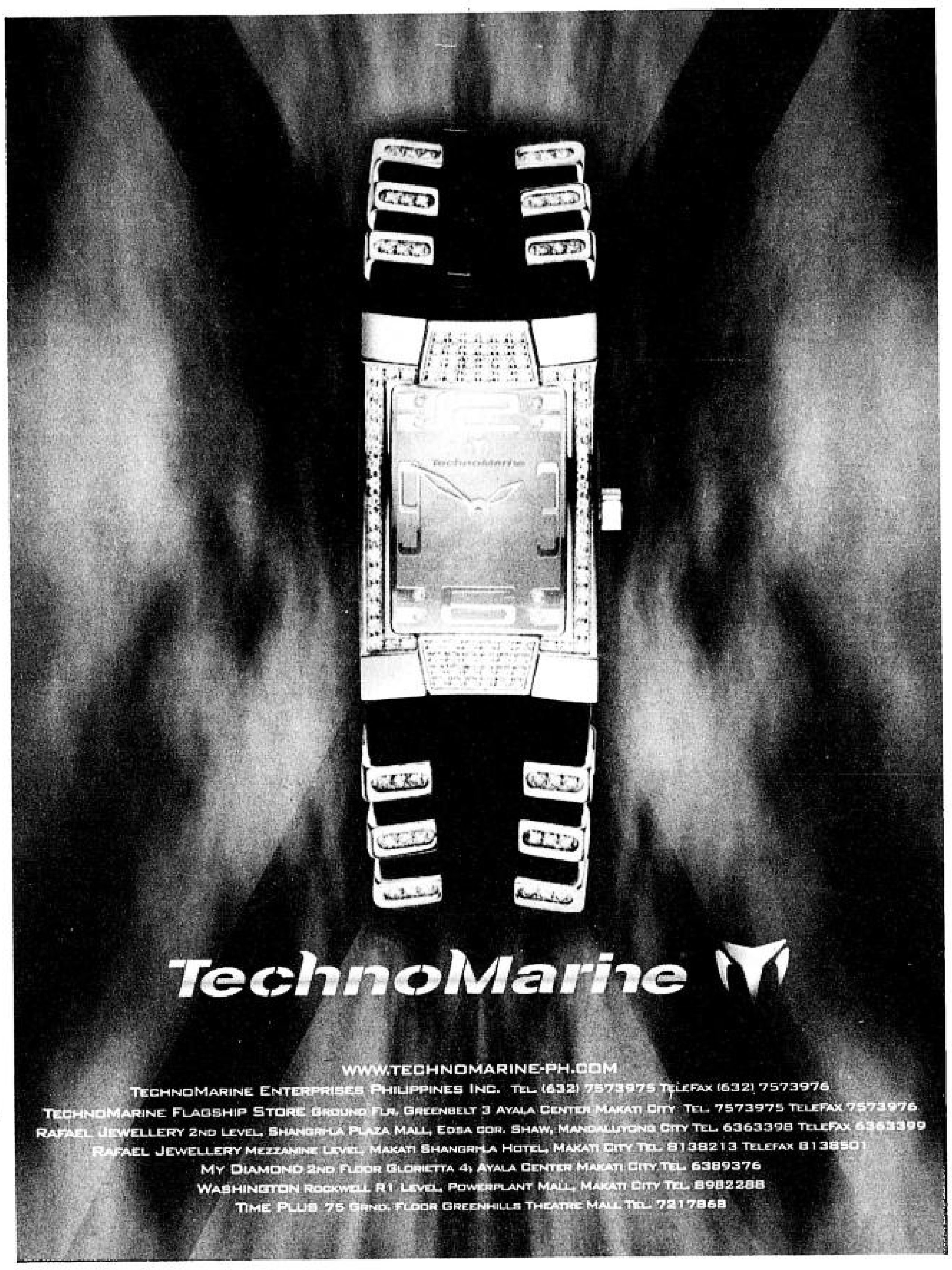
E-mail should have no attachments (Word docs, photos, etc.). The article must be pasted or typed directly in the e-mail.

Photo prints for Lifestyle must be sent directly to the PDI office accompanied by identifying captions. Or they may be submitted in jpeg format on diskette or CD-ROM.



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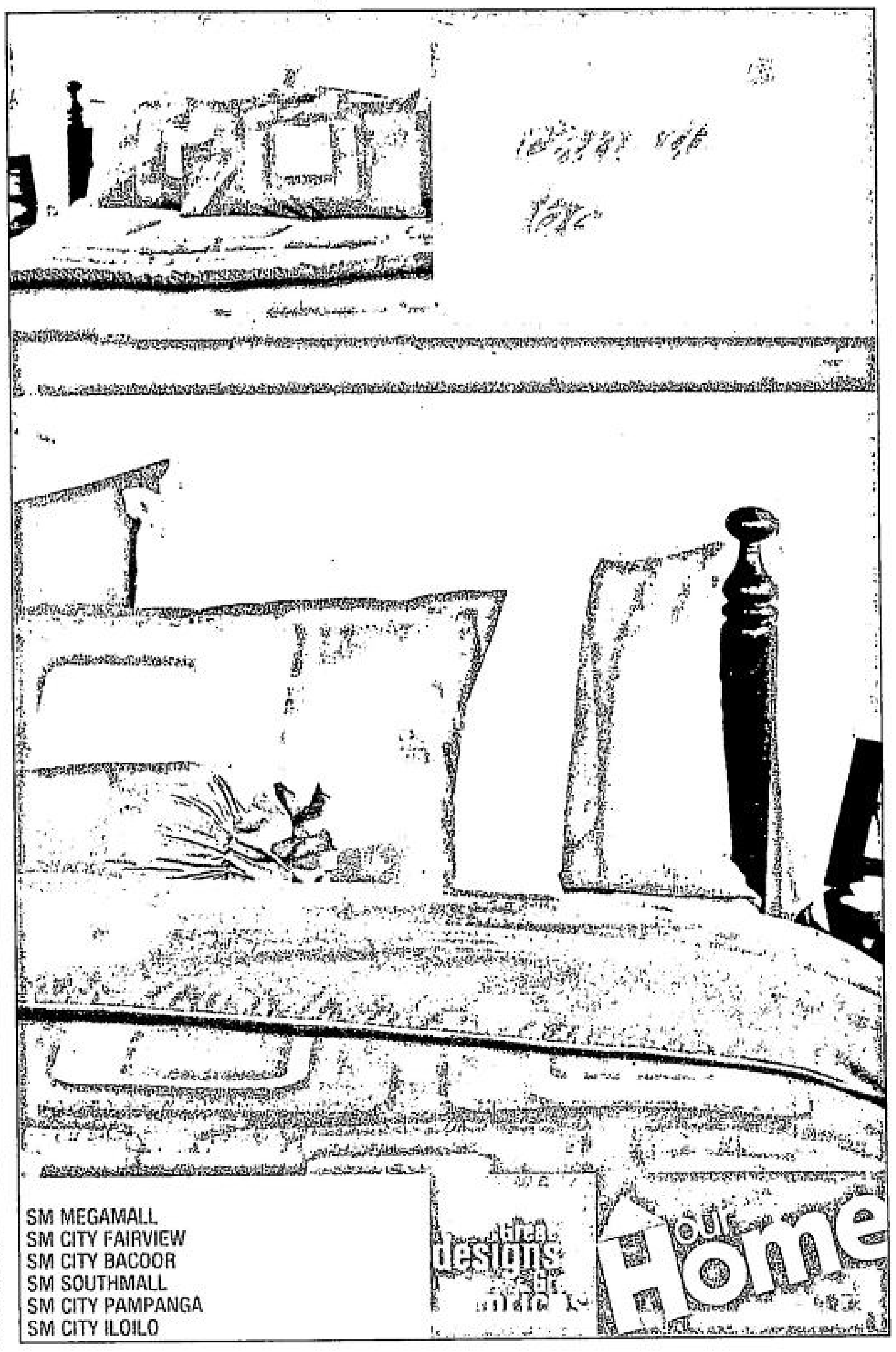

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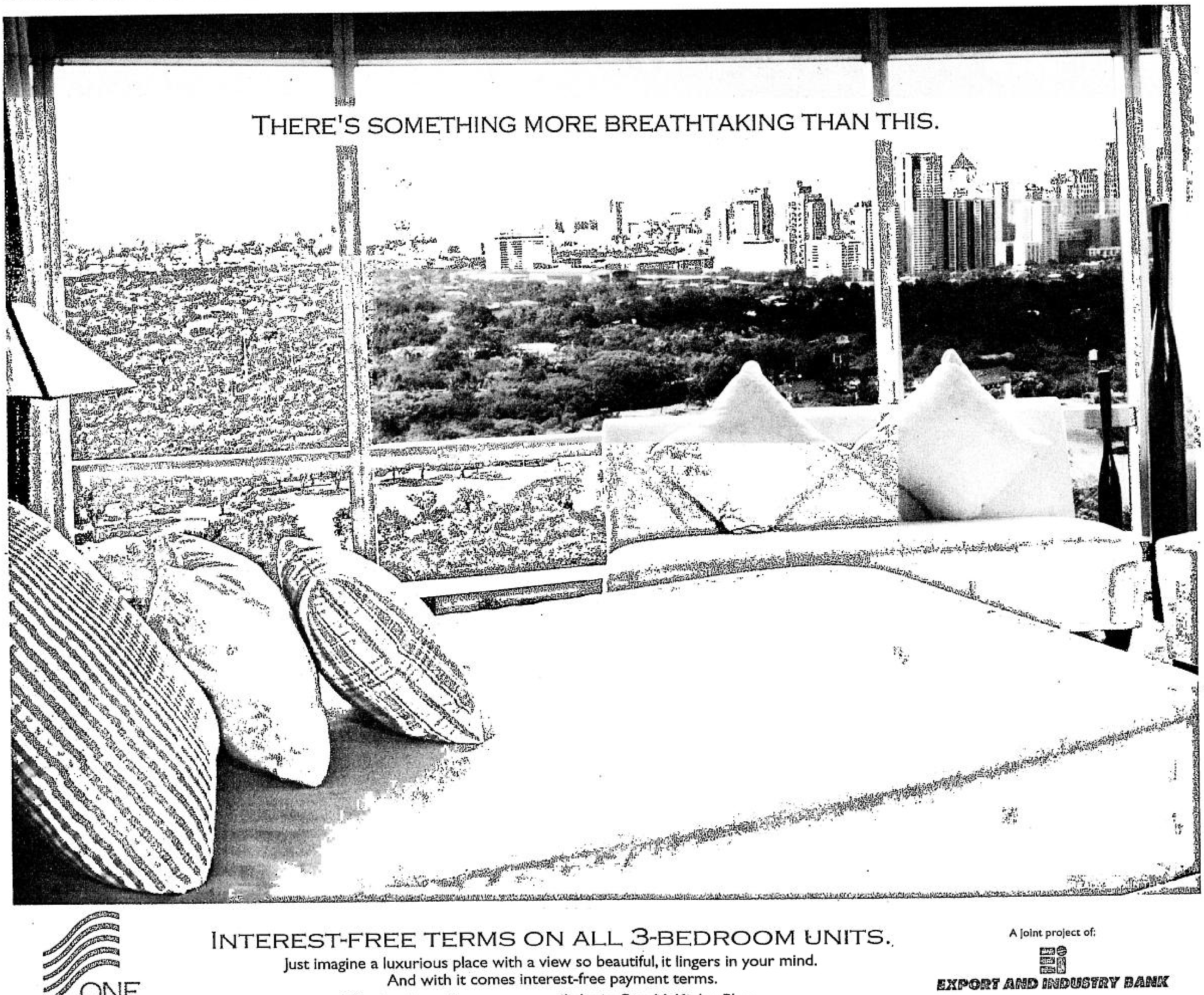
SM CITY ILOILO



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LIFESTYLE Trend Setting

So what's the difference between Louie Cruz and Tim Yap?

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

I DON'T know what came over Louie Cruz. I almost fell off my seat as he stepped into the car.

He was in a Muslim woman's garb (chador, is it?)—all covered in black, from veil to ankle-length skirt, with only his eyes peeking out.

But if you knew Louie, you'd know he didn't have to be under any spell to pull a shocker. He wears insanity as a chic accessory on Metro Manila's otherwise sane nights.

He told me right after he came home from Boracay that he was tempted to go around Greenbelt in a Muslim garb because he wanted to see how people would react. I didn't think he'd really do it until that night we had a date at Greenbelt with Budji Layug and Cora Relova.

I screamed and laughed at Louie in the car, "You nuts?"

Wrong question. Try another—"Whatever for?"

"I want to see how the world reacts to it, you know, the Greenbelt crowd. How global chic and tolerant they can get. And I wanna know how it felt to be reacted to," he said..

Social experiment

The guy was serious. He wasn't just "feeling Tessa Valdes," the era's style chameleon. The party animal, known for off-shoulder shirts and who defined the social agenda of the '70s to the '90s, was into some social experiment for the night.

Greenbelt was to be his laboratory, with its cool rats scurrying around. I knew better than to ask why. If this social icon had a cut-and-dried formula to his *halakhakan* parties of the '70s and '80s—which became the landmarks of the era—or to his invention of the '80s-'90s hive Giraffe, those feats would have been replicated a long time ago, in scope, reach, life span—and number of gossip column inches. But they'd not been.

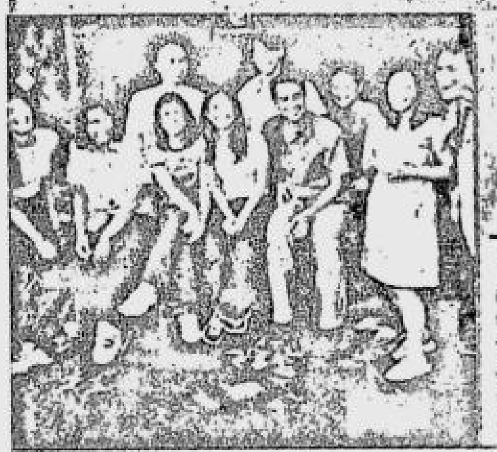
Louie has always upped the social ante and poked into psyches and relationships that stray into his bar, be it Giraffe or Boracay, where he has been based the past two years. I guess that night he wanted to read the vibes at Greenbelt where ethnic curiosity was concerned.

I had to cover my mouth to suppress my giggles for I felt conscious as eyes panned to us as we walked into Kai.

Cora was already seated at our table yet she barely nodded to me because she was

SO WHAT'S/ H3

WHAT'S ON
at Robinsons



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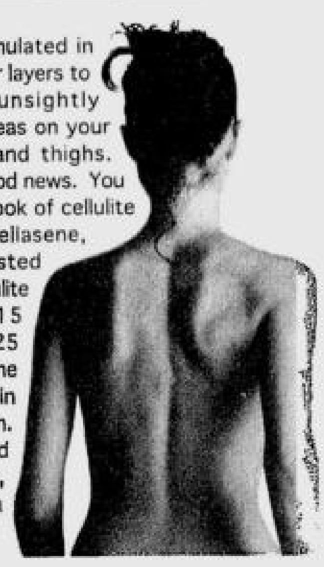
JULY 25 FRIDAY 422-9877



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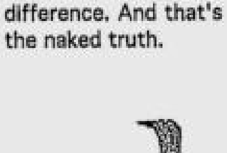

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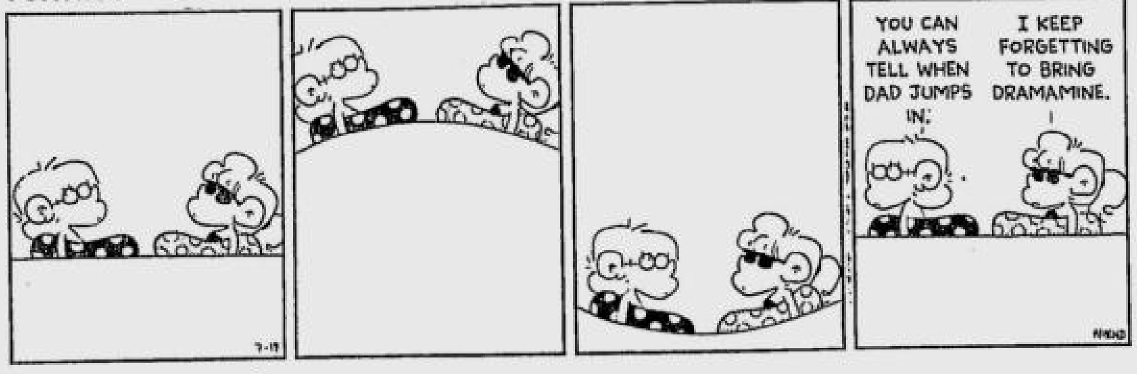
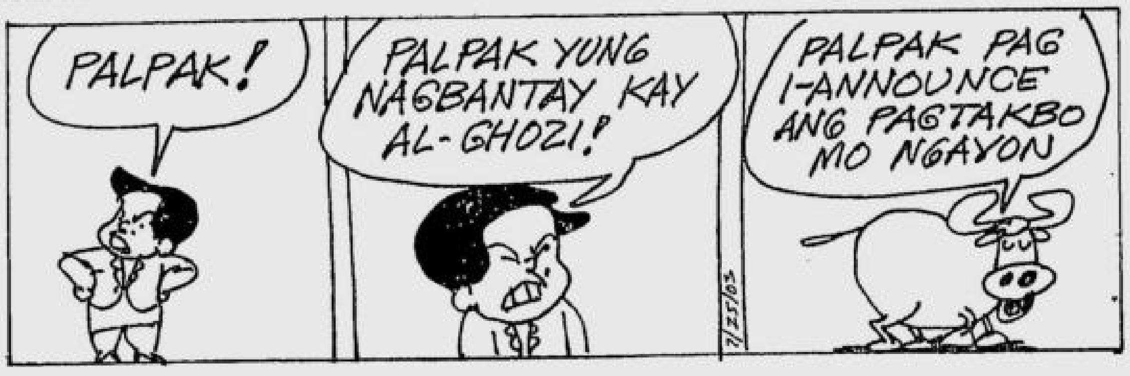
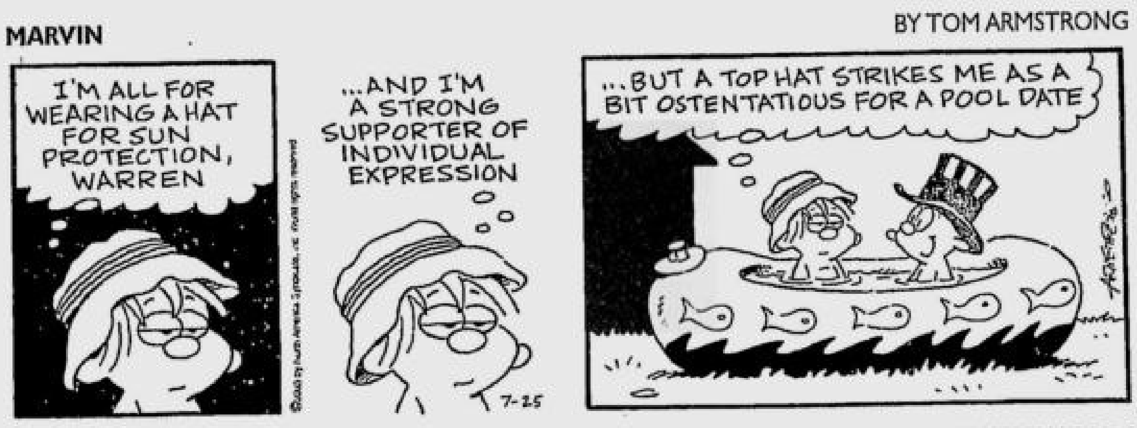

YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL WHEN DAD JUMPS IN.
I KEEP FORGETTING TO BRING DRAMAMINE.
7-19

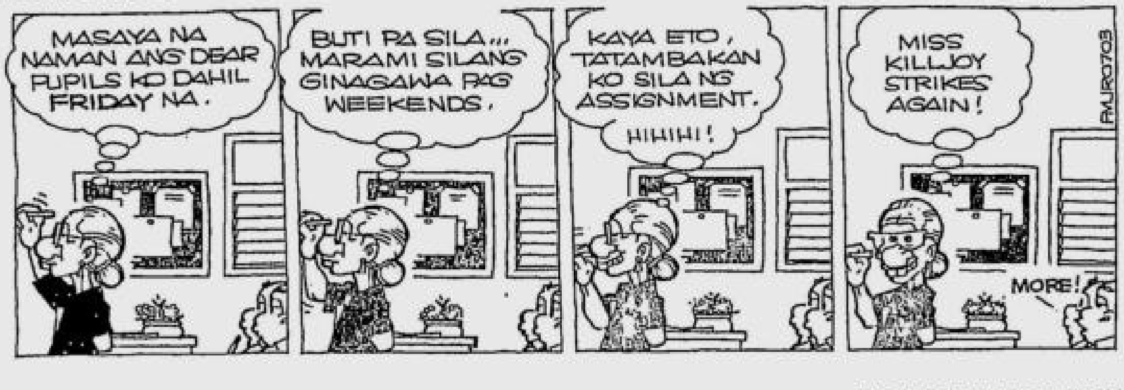
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


PALPAK!
PALPAK YUNG NAGBANTAY KAY AL-GHOZI!
PALPAK PAG I-ANNOUNCE ANG PAGTAKBO MO NGAYON
7/25/03

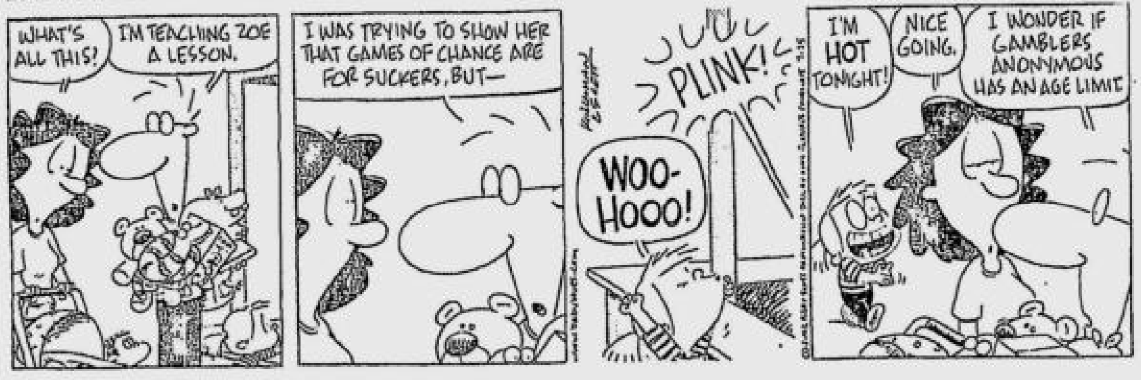
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'M ALL FOR WEARING A HAT FOR SUN PROTECTION, WARREN
...AND I'M A STRONG SUPPORTER OF INDIVIDUAL EXPRESSION
...BUT A TOP HAT STRIKES ME AS A BIT OSTENTATIOUS FOR A POOL DATE
7-25

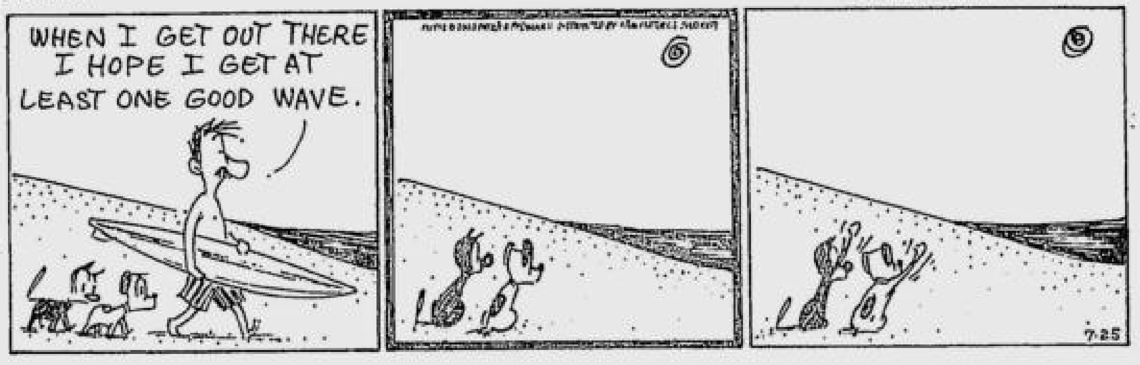
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


MASAYA NA NAMAN ANG DEAR PUPILS KO DAHIL FRIDAY NA.
BUTI PA SILA... MARAMI SILANG GINAGAWA PAG WEEKENDS.
KAYA ETO, TATAMBAKAN KO SILA NG ASSIGNMENT.
HIHIHI!
MISS KILLJOY STRIKES AGAIN!
MORE!
PMJR070703

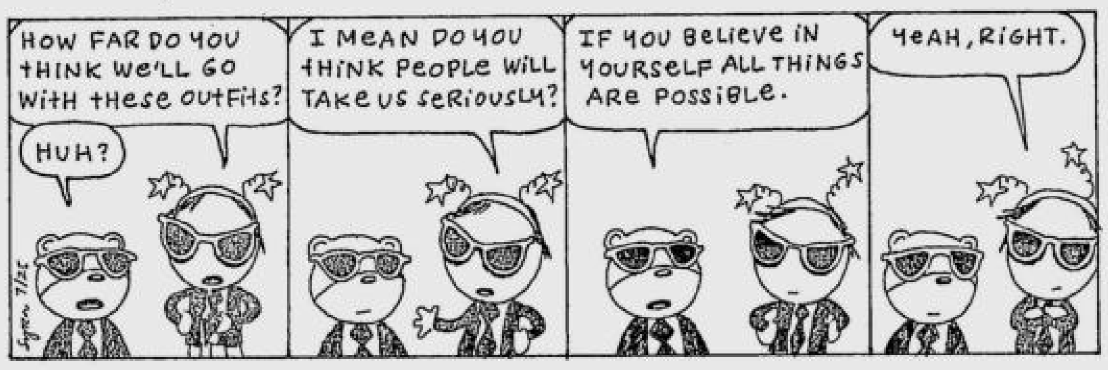
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT'S ALL THIS?
I'M TEACHING ZOE A LESSON.
I WAS TRYING TO SHOW HER THAT GAMES OF CHANCE ARE FOR SUCKERS, BUT—
PLINK!
WOO-HOOO!
I'M HOT TONIGHT!
NICE GOING.
I WONDER IF GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS HAS AN AGE LIMIT

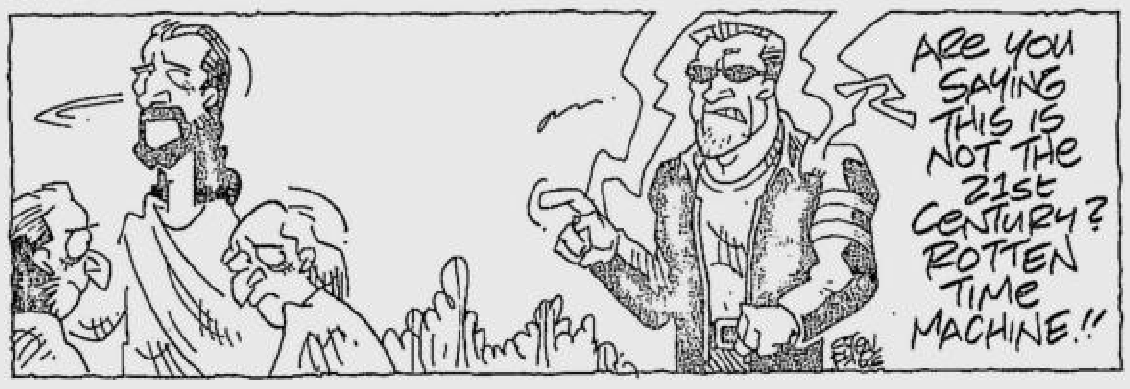
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHEN I GET OUT THERE I HOPE I GET AT LEAST ONE GOOD WAVE.
7-25

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HOW FAR DO YOU THINK WE'LL GO WITH THESE OUTFITS?
HUH?
I MEAN DO YOU THINK PEOPLE WILL TAKE US SERIOUSLY?
IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.
YEAH, RIGHT.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ARE YOU SAYING THIS IS NOT THE 21ST CENTURY? ROTTEN TIME MACHINE!!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are an idealistic individual. Everyone who knows you considers you to be honorable. Privately, you are a romantic at heart. You long to see different places and exotic cultures. Justice is important to you. The year ahead is exciting because you will begin an entirely new nine-year cycle. (Dream big.)
Birthdate of: Brad Renfro, actor; Matt LeBlanc, actor; Maxfield Parrish, painter/illustrator.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be careful when gambling today. Also be cautious about throwing around too much money in order to have a good time. It's easy to go overboard because you're enjoying yourself.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Generosity is a wonderful thing. It's all right to be openhearted with a family member; however, don't give away the farm. Nevertheless, family discussions are enjoyable today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel positive, upbeat and enthusiastic today! Because enthusiasm is a contagious thing—everybody wants to be in your company. (Great.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Although you are thrifty by nature, occasionally you can go overboard. Today is one of those days. Nevertheless, it's a great day for business, but err on the side of caution.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel like a winner today! You find it easy to see the larger view of things. Just be careful you do not overlook important details, because your mind tends to race ahead of itself now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You find it surprisingly easy to feel happy today. You see now that contentment is simply appreciating what you have.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a wonderful day for discussions with friends and groups. Others are jovial, warm and expansive. Make a point of sharing coffee or a drink with people of like minds.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're eager to apply some new information you have just learned to your career or your job. Your ability to see the big picture allows you to plan with intelligent foresight.

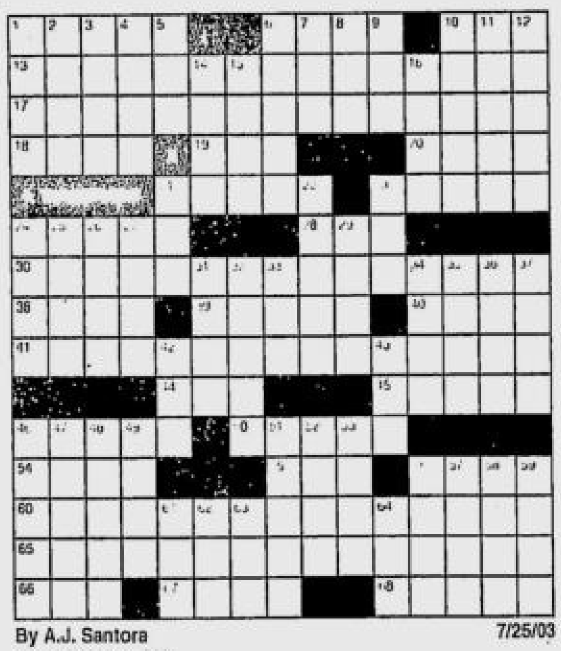
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You feel unusually tolerant of viewpoints that are normally threatening to you. Some people prefer bread; some people prefer potatoes; some people prefer rice.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is an excellent day for business. You'll find it easy to get the cooperation you need from others. Furthermore, you can even get financial backing or direct assistance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You find it easy to be enthusiastic and optimistic with others today. People are impressed with what you have to say. You know that the lead dog is the one with the clearest view.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a wonderful day at work. Co-workers are friendly and cooperative. All business and commercial activity is favored. Where others might see confusion, you see clear patterns.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By A.J. Santora
North Grafton, MA
7/25/03

ACROSS
1 Divers' acronym
6 Mountain lion
10 Holy cow!
13 Panelist's veggies?
17 Actress's oboes?
18 Rock from side to side
19 Slice of history
20 Sticky stuff
21 Ms. Massey
23 Pompous fools
24 Lhasa __
28 Cat tail?
30 Writer's advance?
38 Factual
39 Ancient Greek coins
40 FDR's dog
41 Entrepreneur's bouquet?
44 Former queen of Spain
45 Cinders
46 Confute
50 Pipsqueak
54 Oodles
55 Spanish gold
56 Liner
60 Golfer's clubs?
65 Comic's closeouts?
66 Tie-breaker periods: abbr.
67 Guillemots' kin
68 Take by force

DOWN
1 Lays turf
2 Sing like a rooster
3 Annapolis inst.
4 Skinny
5 Santa __, CA
6 Song of praise
7 Sturm __ Drang
8 Writer's writings: abbr.
9 Shortened bk.
10 Highlanders
11 Provide with a trait
12 Slalom curves
14 Composer Jacques
15 One Saarinen
16 Med. readings
21 Pc. of land
22 Leg joint
23 LAPD call
24 Marking on a condo door, perhaps
25 Persian fairy
26 Tarsus man
27 City on the Oka
29 Warning words
31 "__ to Be Wild"
32 WWII menace
33 Romaine
34 Sci-fi ships
35 Check alternative
36 "Revolutions of the Viaducts" painter
37 Get smart with
42 To date
43 Strike sharply
46 Dustin in "Midnight Cowboy"
47 "The Waste Land" poet
48 Fake
49 Sch. on the Rio Grande
51 Sheeps' fleeces
52 "Das Lied von der __"
53 Singer Diana
56 Ride thermals
57 Target on the green
58 Caesar's date
59 Sibilant signal
61 Scandinavian rug
62 W. Coast sch. in Pullman
63 Mighty hardwood
64 Compass dir.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

R	O	T	C		T	O	D	D		M	A	T	E	S
A	M	A	H		E	V	E	R		A	G	A	T	E
F	A	T	E		S	O	R	A		M	O	L	T	S
T	R	A	V	E	L	I	N	G	C	I	R	C	U	S
			R	E	A	D		S	H	E	A			
I	C	H	O	R		S	A	T	E		S	A	D	A
M	O	O	N	I	E		B	E	E			H	R	S
P	A	S	S	E	N	G	E	R	P	I	G	E	O	N
E	T	F			D	E	L		S	L	O	A	N	E
L	I	S	T		I	T	S	Y		O	R	D	E	R
			H	A	N	A		C	C	V	I			
F	L	Y	I	N	G	W	A	L	L	E	N	D	A	S
A	I	M	E	D		A	R	E	A		E	E	R	O
S	C	I	F	I		Y	I	P	S		S	L	A	W
T	E	R	S	E		S	E	T	H		S	I	N	S

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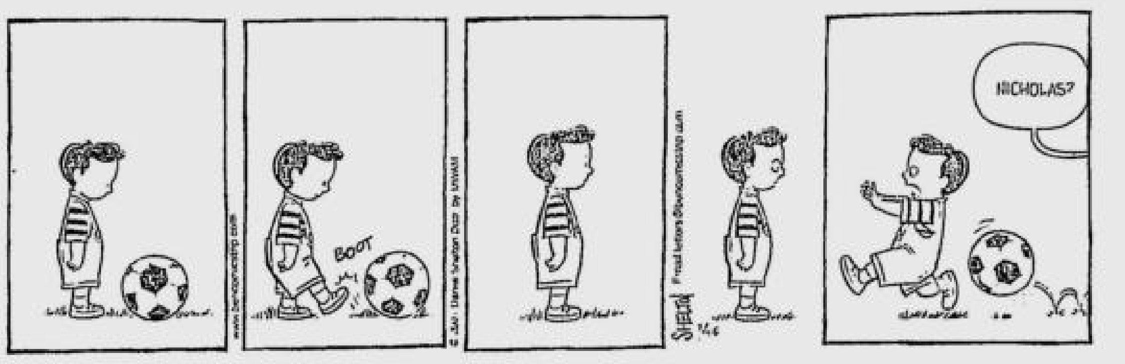
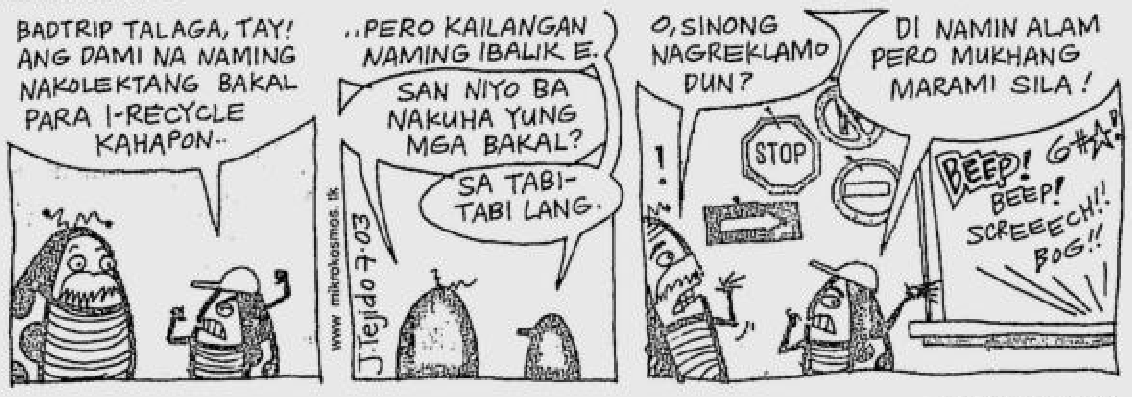
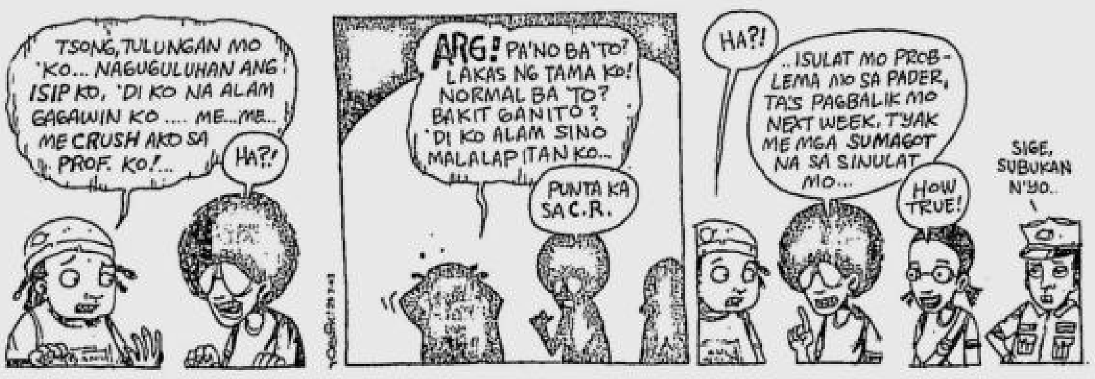
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


BOOT
NICHOLAS?

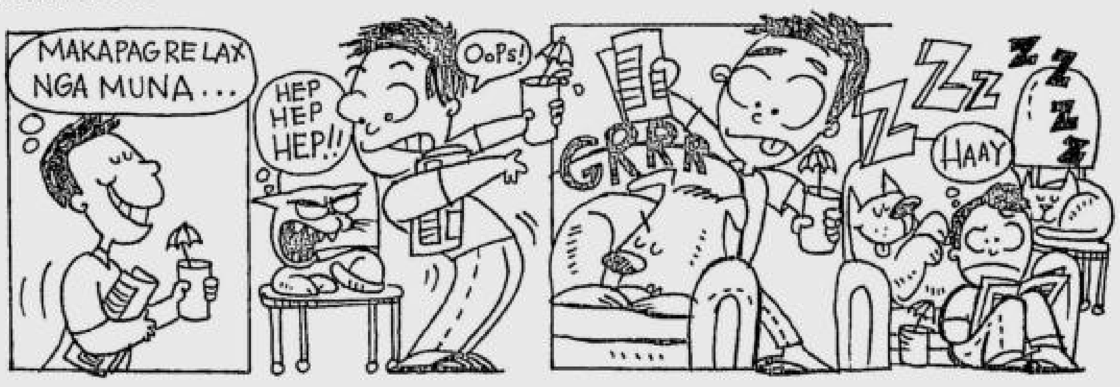
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BADTRIP TALAGA, TAY! ANG DAMI NA NAMING NAKOLEKTANG BAKAL PARA I-RECYCLE KAHAPON..
..PERO KAILANGAN NAMING IBALIK E.
SAN NIYO BA NAKUHA YUNG MGA BAKAL?
SA TABI-TABI LANG.
www mikrokosmos tk
J.Tejido 7·03
O, SINONG NAGREKLAMO DUN?
STOP
DI NAMIN ALAM PERO MUKHANG MARAMI SILA!
BEEP! G#A!
BEEP!
SCREEECH!!
BOG!!

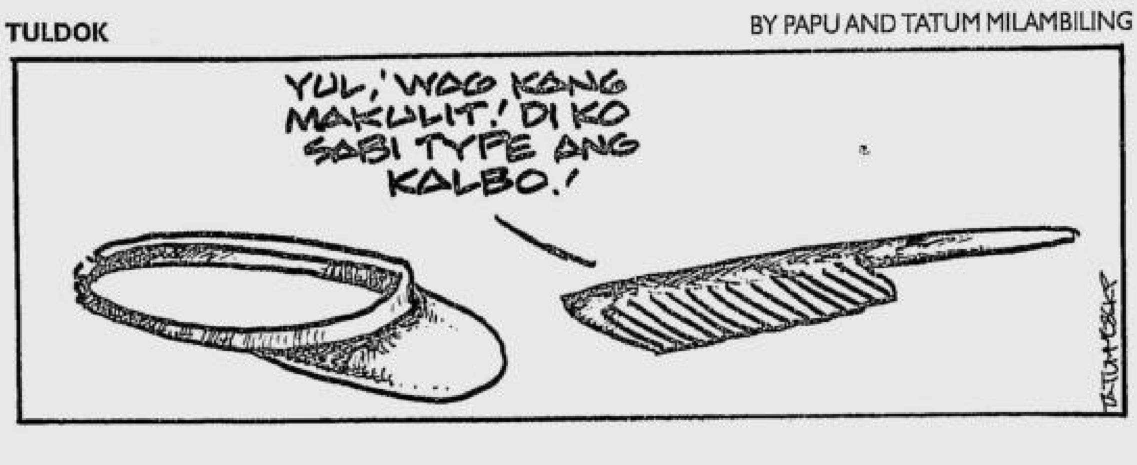
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, TULUNGAN MO 'KO... NAGUGULUHAN ANG ISIP KO, 'DI KO NA ALAM GAGAWIN KO .... ME...ME.. ME CRUSH AKO SA PROF. KO!...
HA?!
ARG! PA'NO BA 'TO? LAKAS NG TAMA KO! NORMAL BA 'TO? BAKIT GANITO? 'DI KO ALAM SINO MALALAPITAN KO...
PUNTA KA SA C.R.
HA?!
..ISULAT MO PROBLEMA MO SA PADER, TA'S PAGBALIK MO NEXT WEEK, T'YAK ME MGA SUMAGOT NA SA SINULAT MO...
HOW TRUE!
SIGE, SUBUKAN N'YO..

FURRY LOGIC BY SUZIE AND CALVIN


MAKAPAG RELAX NGA MUNA...
HEP HEP HEP!!
OoPs!
GRRR
ZZZ
HAAY

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


YUL, 'WAG KANG MAKULIT! DI KO SABI TYPE ANG KALBO!

So what's the difference between Louie Cruz and Tim Yap?

From page H1

busy taking in the sight of the black-veiled creature with me.

The guy at the next table stared at Louie, then laughed. He recognized you, I hissed at Louie, but then the guy's laughter turned into a polite glance at Louie, meaning he wasn't sure if the black-veiled "woman" was the Louie Cruz.

Louie merely nodded demurely at him, then whispered to me triumphantly, "He's Ricky Silverio. Of course, he knows me, but then he's not sure."

Standout guest

One of Kai's owners, Tina Maristela-Ocampo, understated as usual in white button-down shirt and black pants, flitted to our table to say hi, batted her lashes quizzically at Louie until she realized it was Louie.

(By the way, Tina and Ricco Ocampo's pre-teener Bettina has the face that could launch a modeling career like her mom's. Her bone structure is something.)

She could only laugh at the standout guest in her restaurant.

It was Budji who almost mistook Louie for a stranger. He almost didn't stop by our table because, as he said later on, he wasn't expecting a Muslim date.

(By the way, Budji is a step closer to his dream of Asean design. He just opened a lifestyle showcase in a chic area in Bangkok, featuring the home designs of Filipinos led by Movement 8. The store is in a house Budji himself designed with a garden sprawl—clean lines and aesthetics, smart use of space. It's getting the buzz in the Thai market.)

Louie stuck to his disguise the whole night—through the appetizer oyster tempura, the main courses that included braised (or stewed) pork belly cooked for eight hours, and so on.

A dead giveaway, though, that he wasn't the real thing was when he undid the veil to sip his soup and eat the pork—and to smoke after our gluttonous dinner.

He was sweating profusely because, as Budji and I told him, his garb was so polyester, not the silk or fine fabric Middle Eastern women would wear.

And he moved like Louie Cruz, a Marlboro dangling from his fingers, profile in a stoop... you know, anybody who's ventured out to the metro's night scene would know.

Otherwise, he pulled it off. Not even Tita Trillo, whom we ran into at Magnum Bar, recognized Louie right away.

So, did he experience what he wanted to experience?

"I felt protected. That's how a veiled woman *pala* feels. It's actually comfortable, not as confining as I thought," he said.

There were stares but not disrespectful ones, and no way-out-of-line curiosity.

In the respect for diversity department, the Greenbelt crowd passed the test that night.

Different social scenes

But going beyond Louie's weird experiment—an experiment so premeditated that he even went to Quiapo to buy his garb—that night made me realize how different the Louie Cruz set of the '70s-'80s could be from the Tim Yap crowd of the late '90s-'03s, the *socialistas* of the then and now.

One night we did Greenbelt with Louie in a Muslim garb. That said a lot about different eras

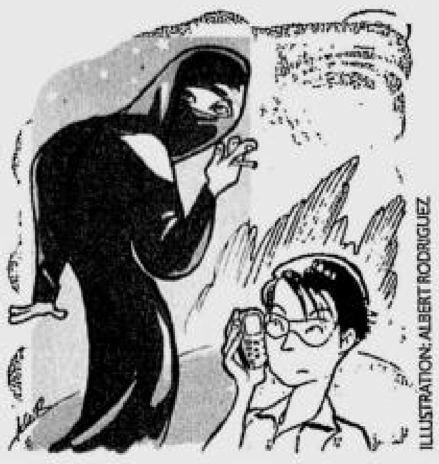


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

My apologies to Louie and Tim, but I'm using their names in the generic sense for, after all, given their high profiles, they've come to represent the social scenes of their years.

It became more pronounced when Louie and Budji hosted a joint birthday party a few weeks ago, and the core groups of their eras came.

"They came not to flash their fashion—but their attitude," a guest told me, "a who-the-hell-cares attitude you hardly see among today's party set."

I probed some more just to make sure I wasn't alone in my observation.

Attitude and insanity—that's what the scene of the '70s-'80s had too much of, often to the point of danger. Today's "Tim Yap-pers," in contrast, are long on style and chic, but stop short of scandal (or at least do not make a loud enough noise to make it to the papers).

Scandals were what kept society pages busy and on their toes in the days of Louie Cruz's Giraffe or Louie Y's Stargazer.

Some nights we literally stopped the press to run the latest *sampalan* in the ladies' powder room, like the time this actress slapped and pulled the hair of an heiress in the Giraffe restroom.

It reached a point where the attendants of the restrooms became regular sources of society column tidbits. And it turned out that some obsessive and enterprising wives and girlfriends would also debrief the attendants to know which woman their husbands/boyfriends brought to the club the night before.

That was when Maurice Arcache's "My Lips Are Sealed" motto was truly valuable to socialites and philandering men who, indeed, had something to hide.

What exactly did the '70s-early '90s have that made it different from today, I asked Louie himself.

Wild abandon

"Sensuality and passion. Intensity," he said.

Such down-to-the-core attitude translated into wild abandon. In booze, drugs, affairs. The interesting thing was, in some cases, those party animals then didn't bother to hide all the above, not because they were brazen but because they were candid, if not confident or even smug.

I remember when Louie himself figured in a, uh, scene at the Peninsula lobby, which was talked about for months or even years. The next day, Louie himself went to see the hotel management to report exactly what happened and to apologize, and then called me up so at least we would get our "gossip" accurately.

"I kinda miss such worldly confidence in today's kids," said a party animal who obviously was no longer one of today's kids.

Maybe today's *socialistas* are confident only about their fashion style, and not much beyond that.

He added, "They descend on the scene, brandish their style and compare fashion brands. I mean, how exciting can you get?"

(Okay, I get the point—comparing Pradas isn't nearly as exciting as comparing adulteries, although the comparative budgets could be close.)

And you can use the word "chic" only so much. In describing today's gigs, you run out of words that are the equivalent of chic. So you go to the music. After that, where?

In the end, however, the people-watching copy doesn't read as juicy as in the Louie Cruz days; it's inevitably limited to who and who wore what, period. That PR-ish. That deep.

This is not to say there's no juice happening behind-the-scenes. Lots.

Perhaps as much as in Louie's days, if not more. For one, cocaine and designer drugs shape the scene, but that's not out in the open. It's still strictly behind-the-scenes, unlike in the '70s and '80s when the party animals paraded their substance use and abuse.

For another, pick-up moves these days are—shall we say—mainstreamed, but not the scandals.

Corporate stiffs

Why the difference? "It's because today's *socialistas* have day jobs. They're corporate stiffs with jobs and images to protect," our Metro editor Carlo Tadiar told me.

And in Louie's days, I said, following his drift, the party animals were mostly heirs/heiresses or children of cronies who didn't have to work a day in their lives?

Right, he said.

That's a thought. And since it's 3 p.m. and I'm in-between meetings now, and Monchet (Olives, ABS-CBN senior vice president) is expecting my callback to his queries about the phone lines our office needs, I will stop thinking about the Louie Cruzes and Tim Yaps of this world.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

BAG LADIES. Edna Buenviaje-Cruz is flanked by daughters Lally Cruz-Dizon (left) and Trisha Cruz-Cuason.

Bagging the credit . . .

From page H4

Eldest child Trisha, 30, who finished Tourism at UP Diliman, was making a career in air transportation when her airline company shut down. Younger sister Lally was a money market trader but found herself yearning to do something more creative. A graduate of Interdisciplinary Studies from Ateneo de Manila, she quit her job and spent a year at the Philippine School of Interior Design.

"They told me, 'Mommy, *dito muna kami ha, habang naghihintay,*' because they sent out job applications," their mother recalls. "*Sabi ko, okay lang kasi* I never forced them to work in the family business anyway."

That was in 2000. The sisters enjoyed their stint so much they decided to stay. Trisha is now Martinique's VP for sales and marketing; Lally is both president and designer.

"We realized the business suited our personalities," explains Trisha. "[Like our mom] we love dressing up, makeup... We're *kikay*!"

Concern

Lally says, "*Iba 'yung malasakit* because we know eventually *sa amin din mapupunta.*"

Hence, Trisha decided to go back to school. "We want to professionalize the company from a [mere] family business," she explains. Turning things around, however, wasn't easy.

"When [my parents] started, they used to do everything," says Lally. Edna recalls they did their own driving, delivery, purchasing. "*Yung dating* one-woman show, *hindi na pupuwede,*" adds Lally. "This transition was not easy for all of us... *Dati* emotional *siya* (Edna)."

It was particularly hard for Trisha, who was so excited she thought they would embrace her ideas right away. "*Hindi pala ganun,*" she says, adding her father often got miffed.

"*Sasabihin ko sa papa nila, 'Tama naman si* Trisha, *ah,*'" recalls Edna. "'*Tama lahat yan, naniniwala ako. Yun lang pagkakasabi niya. Magulang pa rin tayo!*'" she laughs.

Expertise

But even then, the sisters are not dismissing their parents' 21 years of experience in the bag business. "We still need their guidance," Trisha says. "They're still the experts." They want to combine that expertise with Trisha's new knowledge—one step at a time.

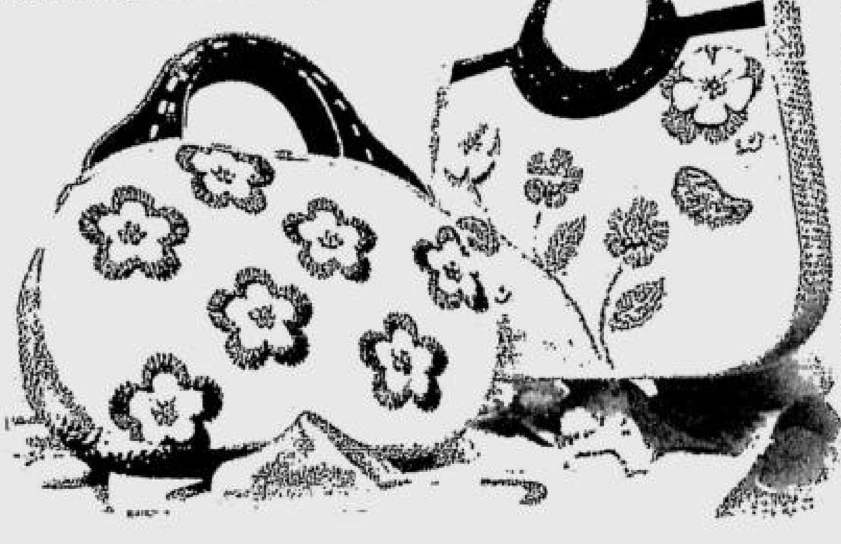
The good part, the sisters say, is Edna's openness to new ideas—always willing to take risks, just like the 33-year-old that she was when she and husband Ricardo "Ding" Cruz quit their bank jobs in 1982 to put up Martinique.

"They tell me, 'Mommy, *bigyan mo kami ng* deadline.' *Dati wala kaming ganun; lahat* verbal *lang,*" says Edna. "I think that's the advantage of their having worked in the corporate world."

Edna believes the company she and her husband have worked so hard for is in good hands. "Trisha is a lot like her father," she says, smiling, "aggressive *at medyo* high-strung. *Gusto may* action *agad.* Lally is more like me; we're both cool. *Kaya* nice combination *sila* [just like me and my husband]."

Edna has no plans of slowing down. In fact, she has just been elected president of the Association of Philippine Leathergoods Exporters and Manufacturers. "I don't want to retire now because of the changes in our system. I'm excited with what these girls are doing. I'm enjoying."

Visit www.martiniquebags.com


IN FULL BLOOM. Floral-designed bags made of raffia combined with *ticog*, with pure leather and straw stitching as trimmings and embellishments (left) and wood handles (right).

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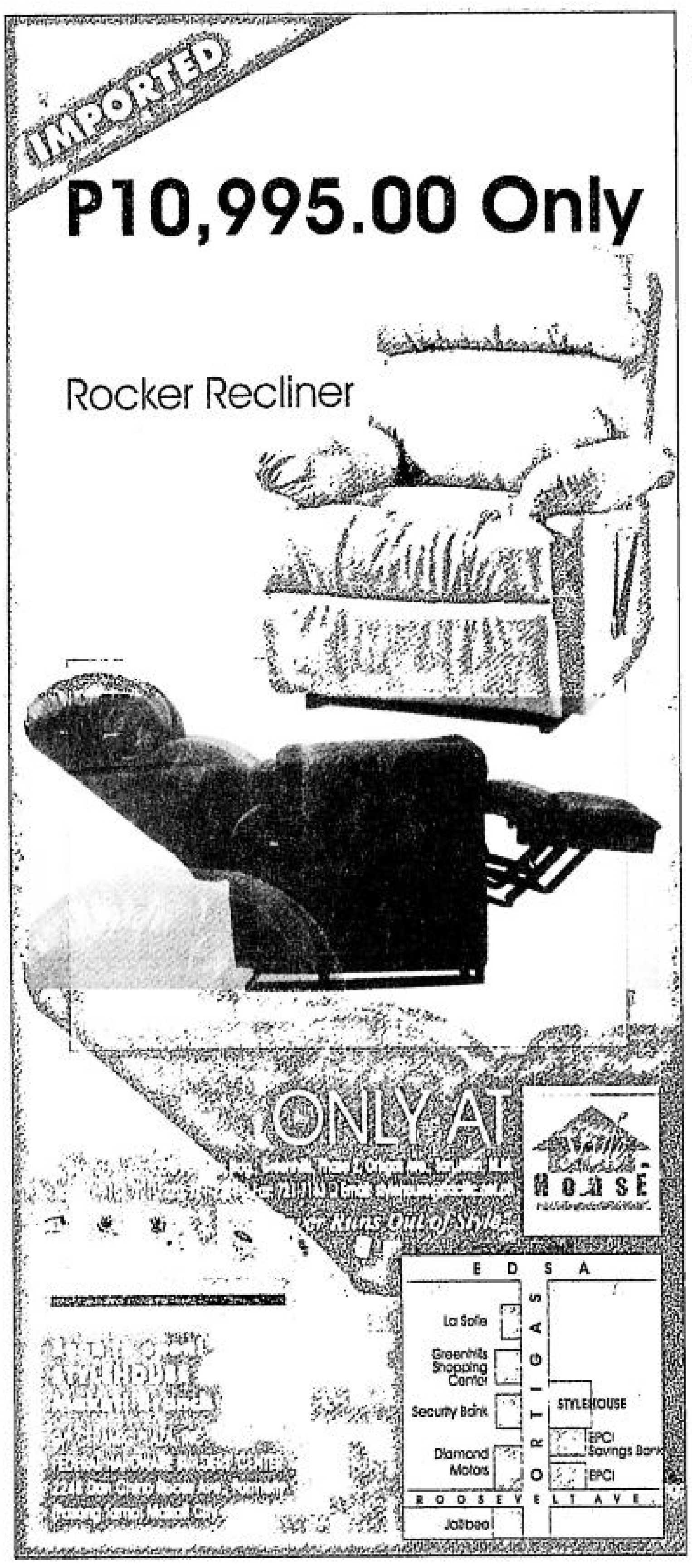
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Bagging the credit, finally

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

A WELL-MADE bag is a labor of love. And buyers and lovers can't help but fall in love with it.

That is what Trisha Cruz-Cuason and Lally Cruz-Dizon seem to be saying. The two are the creative minds behind the new bag line Pa dú du, an offshoot of their mother Edna Cruz-Buenviaje's 21-year-old Martinique label. Pa dú du debuted in June at Rustan's Tower in Mandaluyong.

"Before, when your bag was made of natural materials, people thought you were *baduy*," says Edna. "Only high-end buyers appreciated natural materials. Now that has changed."

Since their business is into export and manufacturing for other labels (e.g. Rafe, Bayo, Cinderella), the Martinique name may not ring a bell. "We've been making bags for others, [but] we weren't even recognized," laments Lally, 28. The sisters have decided to seek the recognition their company deserved. Thus, Pa dú du.

More personal

While Martinique is highly popular in the export market for its fine craftsmanship, the sisters say they put even more love into their new venture. For Pa dú du, they make only 6-12 pieces per design "to put value into the bag... Export is [made] by the thousands."

For export, Lally says she has to give in to what the foreign buyers want. "With Pa dú du, I design what I feel will click with the local market [so it's more personal]."

Displayed alongside well-known imported brands in Rustan's, Pa dú du is proud to hold its own even only after a month. Made primarily of natural materials (*sinamay, bancuang,* coco shell, *pandan, ticog, buntal,* leather), Pa dú du bags are in tune with global trends. They're elegant and chic, and have young and witty details—a welcome departure from the matronly *balikbayan* types commonly associated with "Filipino bags."

Pa dú du is actually a play on the French phrase *pas de deux*, which means "a dance by two," referring to the sisters—"catchy, but not too French because we're using natural materials." (Martinique was named after their only brother Martin.) The bag line is, in fact, Trisha's graduate project for the Asian Institute of Management, where she's finishing her Master's degree in Entrepreneurship—a task she has put her heart into as she took on a significant role in the family business.

Trisha says Pa dú du is an alternative bag for a niche market. "It is for women who want beautiful bags that are not too expensive. It's for the A-B markets, and even for working women."

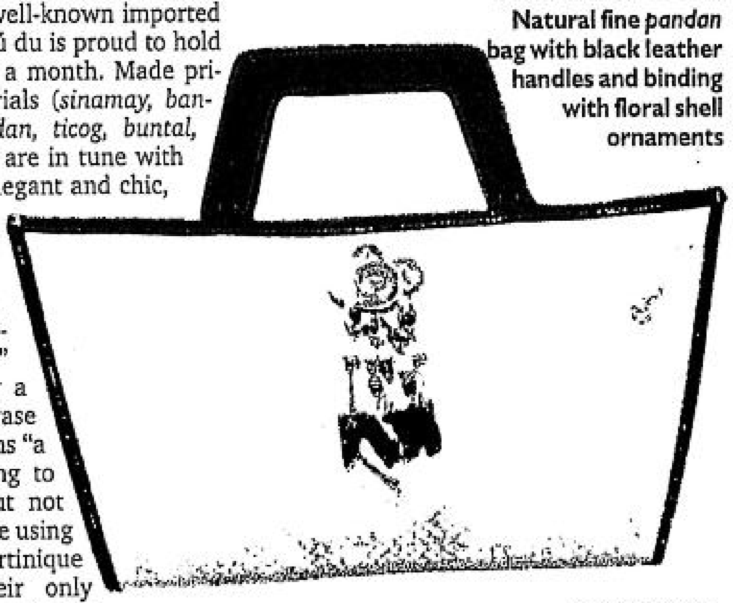
Pa dú du is exclusively sold in Rustan's Tower, but the sisters plan to eventually open their own store.

Need vs enthusiasm

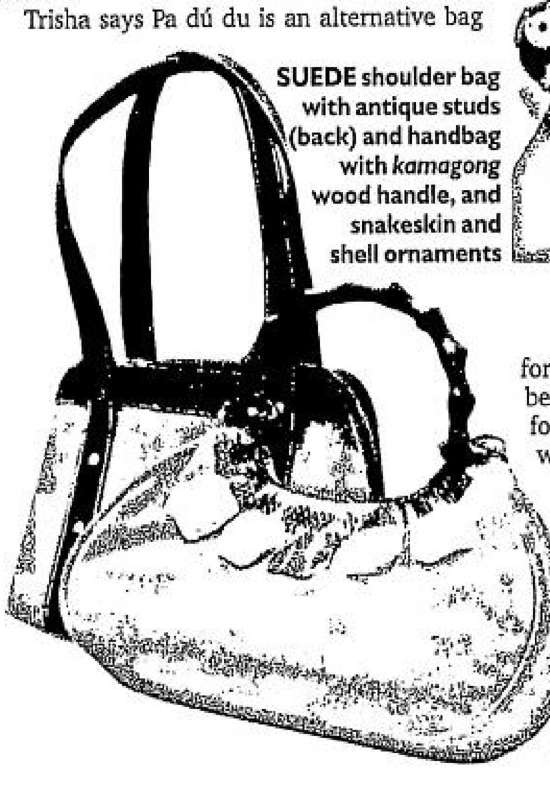
Edna's daughters' decision to join the family business sprang more from a need than a real enthusiasm for the business that "fed us and sent us to good schools."

BAGGING/ H3

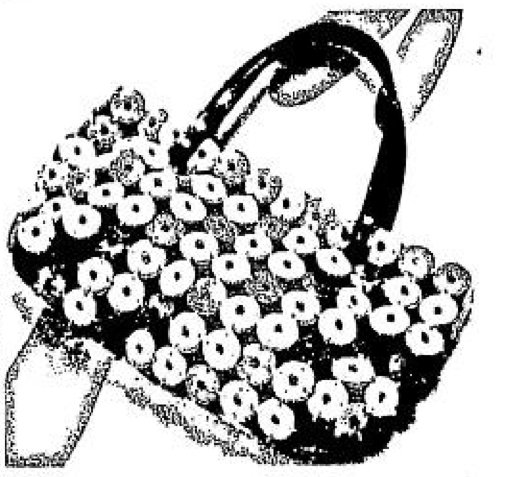
RAFFIA RAGE. Raffia bag with fully-sequined floral design embroidered with raffia thread. The handles are made of pure leather with raffia stitching.



PANDAN PIZZAZZ. Natural fine *pandan* bag with black leather handles and binding with floral shell ornaments

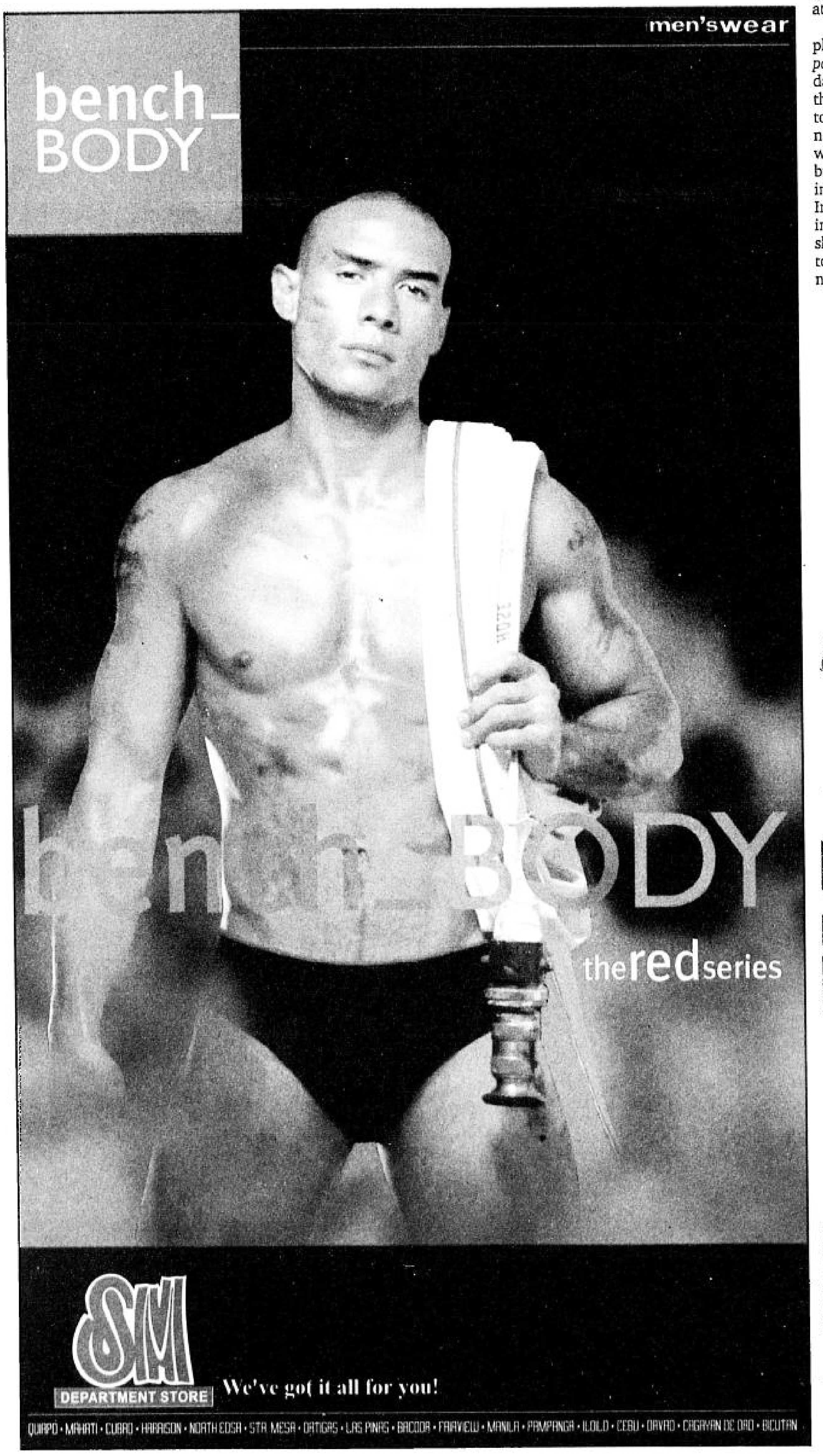


SUEDE shoulder bag with antique studs (back) and handbag with *kamagong* wood handle, and snakeskin and shell ornaments



COCO LOCO. Coco shell bag with eyelet design and leather handles

GRAZE LAND. (Clockwise from left) Bag made of red and natural *buntal* with red leather handles; *ticog* bag designed with leather and straw flowers with leather handles; and *sabutan* bag combined with suede flowers with leather handles and trimmings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To your HEALTH!

Brain specialists think out of the box

By Dr. Raquel Mallari-Alvarez

> It's also healthy for neurologists to take a breather from problems such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. After all, neurologists are also human

AFTER years and years of toiling, we finally became doctors.

Then after graduation in medical school and passing the licensure examination, we were faced with a bigger dilemma—Do we want to study some more, to train further and be on 24-hour duty and all the back-breaking things a young doctor in training have to do? This meant having to hurdle more years of a seemingly endless studying and gaining more expertise to become a specialist. One trains and trains further to become a super-specialist.

Our society, the Philippine Neurological Association (PNA), is composed of neurologists or specialists in diseases involving the brain and nervous system. We may have had various reasons for pursuing this field, but for most of us, we would choose no other specialty. This is our main field of interest. Our researches are focused on brain-related or nervous-system related problems. We practically breathe and live neurology 24 hours a day.

However, we may also get to a point when we have to ask ourselves: What else besides my practice as a neurologist? Despite what others may think, many physicians, including many neurologists, still nurture the humanitarian aspect of being a physician, rendering service even if we don't get paid for it. Especially in difficult times like these, this humanitarian call becomes more imperative. But we don't mind at all.

Admittedly, we have to earn a decent living by our private practice, but this objective should not be an overriding concern that will determine who we should render our service to. We treat anyone who comes to us if our services are needed, especially in emergency situations.

Many doctors, therefore, find the need to engage in additional trade or business to meet their needs for themselves and their family. We need to ensure the best education for our children and provide them the basic comforts in life. We also need to build up some savings or "extra funds" when the inevitable time to slow down in our practice comes. Or simply, we may be nagged by interests to pursue business undertakings other than our love for Neurology.

We hear of some doctors who get into business, not so much for the financial rewards anymore, but to be able to do their share in providing employment to others, and also contributing, in their humble way, to the country's economy. Some of these doctors' businesses turn out to become giant enterprises employing thousands of employees and generating billions in gross revenues. And, it may have just started as a dream to make a difference aside from being a doctor.

Thus, "Thinking Out of the Box" is the theme of the midyear convention of the PNA, which will be held at the Legend Hotel in Subic, Zambales on July 25 and 26. During the convention, neurologists will explore, not only medical concerns of the brain and nervous system, but other non-medical concerns such as financial undertakings, music, dancing and other aspects of the arts.

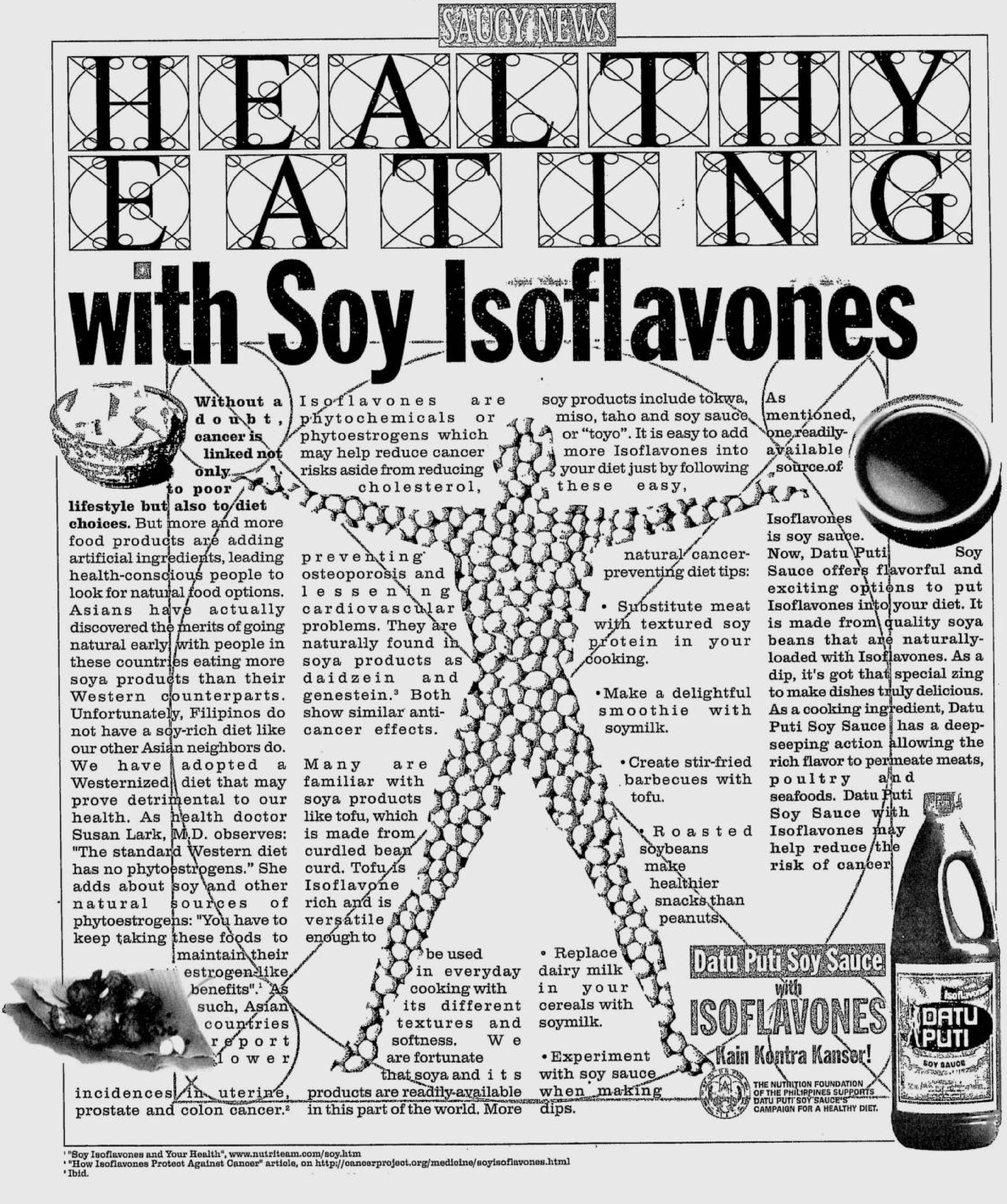
Famous performing artist Jim Paredes will talk about "Unlocking Creativity", Drs. Artemio Roxas Jr. and Darwin Dasig will lecture on the "Neurology of Music", and Dr. Carissa Paz Dioquino and Inday Manosa of the Philippine Ballet Theater will share their insights on the "Neurology of Dancing". Several other interesting topics are also lined up to make it an informative and enjoyable convention, beyond neurological concerns. A memorable evening with the PNA founding members will also be held on the second night.

The officers and members of the organizing committee of PNA have left no stone unturned to make this a successful midyear convention.

The current officers are Drs. Raymond Espinosa, president, Carlos Chua, vice-president, Romeo Enriquez, secretary, Ceferino Rivera, treasurer, Raymond Rosales, Raquel Alvarez and Johnny Lokin, directors, and Artemio Roxas Jr., immediate past president.

Neurologists are always preoccupied with strokes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and all the crippling ailments afflicting the nervous system.

Once in a while, it's healthy also for the neurologists to take a breather from all these depressing problems and discuss other concerns. After all, neurologists are also human.



SAUCY NEWS

HEALTHY EATING with Soy Isoflavones

Without a doubt, cancer is linked not only to poor lifestyle but also to diet choices. But more and more food products are adding artificial ingredients, leading health-conscious people to look for natural food options. Asians have actually discovered the merits of going natural early, with people in these countries eating more soya products than their Western counterparts. Unfortunately, Filipinos do not have a soy-rich diet like our other Asian neighbors do. We have adopted a Westernized diet that may prove detrimental to our health. As health doctor Susan Lark, M.D. observes: "The standard Western diet has no phytoestrogens." She adds about soy and other natural sources of phytoestrogens: "You have to keep taking these foods to maintain their estrogen-like benefits".[1] As such, Asian countries report lower incidences in uterine, prostate and colon cancer.[2]

Isoflavones are phytochemicals or phytoestrogens which may help reduce cancer risks aside from reducing cholesterol, preventing osteoporosis and lessening cardiovascular problems. They are naturally found in soya products as daidzein and genestein.[3] Both show similar anti-cancer effects.

Many are familiar with soya products like tofu, which is made from curdled bean curd. Tofu is Isoflavone rich and is versatile enough to be used in everyday cooking with its different textures and softness. We are fortunate that soya and its products are readily available in this part of the world. More soy products include tokwa, miso, taho and soy sauce or "toyo". It is easy to add more Isoflavones into your diet just by following these easy, natural cancer-preventing diet tips:

- Substitute meat with textured soy protein in your cooking.
- Make a delightful smoothie with soymilk.
- Create stir-fried barbecues with tofu.
- Roasted soybeans make healthier snacks than peanuts.
- Replace dairy milk in your cereals with soymilk.
- Experiment with soy sauce when making dips.

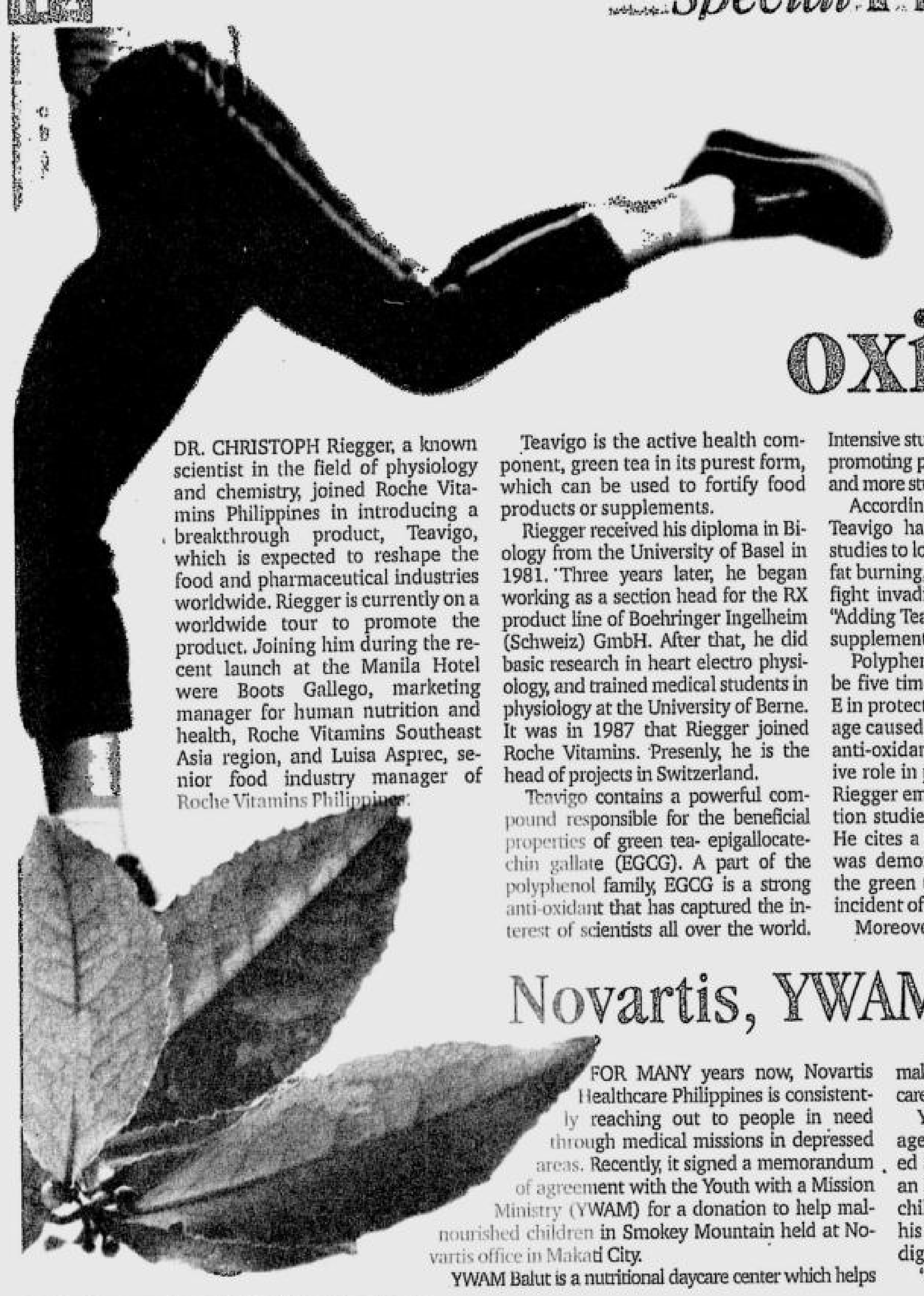
As mentioned, one readily-available source of Isoflavones is soy sauce. Now, Datu Puti Soy Sauce offers flavorful and exciting options to put Isoflavones into your diet. It is made from quality soya beans that are naturally-loaded with Isoflavones. As a dip, it's got that special zing to make dishes truly delicious. As a cooking ingredient, Datu Puti Soy Sauce has a deep-seeping action allowing the rich flavor to permeate meats, poultry and seafoods. Datu Puti Soy Sauce with Isoflavones may help reduce the risk of cancer.

Datu Puti Soy Sauce with ISOFLAVONES
Kain Kontra Kanser!

THE NUTRITION FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES SUPPORTS DATU PUTI SOY SAUCE'S CAMPAIGN FOR A HEALTHY DIET.

[1] "Soy Isoflavones and Your Health", www.nutriteam.com/soy.htm
[2] "How Isoflavones Protect Against Cancer" article, on http://cancerproject.org/medicine/soyisoflavones.html
[3] Ibid.

Scientists launch promising anti-oxidant in green tea



DR. CHRISTOPH Riegger, a known scientist in the field of physiology and chemistry, joined Roche Vitamins Philippines in introducing a breakthrough product, Teavigo, which is expected to reshape the food and pharmaceutical industries worldwide. Riegger is currently on a worldwide tour to promote the product. Joining him during the recent launch at the Manila Hotel were Boots Gallego, marketing manager for human nutrition and health, Roche Vitamins Southeast Asia region, and Luisa Asprec, senior food industry manager of Roche Vitamins Philippines.

Teavigo is the active health component, green tea in its purest form, which can be used to fortify food products or supplements.

Riegger received his diploma in Biology from the University of Basel in 1981. Three years later, he began working as a section head for the RX product line of Boehringer Ingelheim (Schweiz) GmbH. After that, he did basic research in heart electro physiology, and trained medical students in physiology at the University of Berne. It was in 1987 that Riegger joined Roche Vitamins. Presenly, he is the head of projects in Switzerland.

Teavigo contains a powerful compound responsible for the beneficial properties of green tea- epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG). A part of the polyphenol family, EGCG is a strong anti-oxidant that has captured the interest of scientists all over the world. Intensive studies harnessing its health-promoting properties have been done, and more studies are ongoing.

According to Riegger, the EGCG in Teavigo has been shown in many studies to lower cholesterol, promote fat burning, and even helps the body fight invading bacteria and viruses. "Adding Teavigo to common foods or supplements is healthier," he says.

Polyphenol EGCG has shown to be five times stronger than vitamin E in protecting body cells from damage caused by oxidation. As a potent anti-oxidant, EGCG plays a supportive role in preventing heart disease. Riegger emphasized studies population studies supported this finding. He cites a Japanese study where it was demonstrated that the higher the green tea intake, the lower the incident of heart disease.

Moreover, EGCG has cholesterol-lowering properties that help prevent the build-up of plaque in the arteries and minimize the odds of hypertension. The benefits of EGCG also include dental care, as it kills the bacteria in your mouth responsible for tooth decay. Furthermore, since it promotes fat burning, Teavigo can also benefit people interested in weight management.

"There is nothing like it in the market," Riegger declares. "No single substance can equal the extent to which people can benefit from Teavigo, for it simply is remedy for a lot of people's health concerns."

AT THE launch of Teavigo, posing for the camera are (from left) Luisa Asprec, senior food industry manager of Roche vitamins Philippines, Tom Bruynel, Roche vitamins Asia Pacific food business manager, Gilbert Joven, Nestle Philippines SVP for milks, and Marylindbert International (MLB) president Alberto Rosal.

Novartis, YWAM help Smokey Mountain kids

FOR MANY years now, Novartis Healthcare Philippines is consistently reaching out to people in need through medical missions in depressed areas. Recently, it signed a memorandum of agreement with the Youth with a Mission Ministry (YWAM) for a donation to help malnourished children in Smokey Mountain held at Novartis office in Makati City.

YWAM Balut is a nutritional daycare center which helps malnourished children with complicating problems receive care in a nurturing and more hygienic environment.

YWAM has the daughter of Novartis country manager Leo Marchosky--Andy--to thank for. Andy visited Smokey Mountain as part of her volunteerism in an NGO. Pity came all over her as soon she saw the children. Further inquiries led her to ask her father if his company could extend help to the hundreds of indigent children in Balut.

"We believe that improving the health and standard of living people is a shared responsibility," Marchosky said.

Novartis AG is a global leader in pharmaceuticals and consumer health.

Novartis helped develop a new drug to fight a difficult-to-treat Malaria in China that is now sold to the World Health Organization, while WHO gives the medicine for free to countries that need it. It also helped support other WHO programs to fight leprosy, and the Palawan malaria.

A solution to a senior's condition

INCONTINENCE among senior people is a major concern of families and caregivers. The condition, however, is nothing to be ashamed of, yet cannot be ignored.

There's a solution to seniors' predicament and it comes in Dr. P, the No. 1 adult diaper sold in the market today.

Adult diapers are important and beneficial for both users and caregivers. It helps elders manage their incontinence or poor bladder and bowel control. It is also used in care and hygiene management of geriatrics in a hospital setting, home care and even travel. Patients undergoing post-maternity and post surgery can also use this product.

Dr. P Adult Diaper gives its users value for their money because of its quality features. Now the No. 1 adult diaper is now made more affordable through its Basic variant. The absorbent pad core size of Dr. P is bigger than its competitors. Consumers of other products do not get their money's worth.

Dr. P has Antibiosis and a Deodorization layer that effectively controls harmful germs in urine and feces and helps neutralize unpleasant smells. It has high-speed channels that enhance absorption of urine and ensures its even flow across the pad. It also has a wetness indicator that makes diaper checks extra convenient and accurate.

Dr. P is available in several variants, Dr. P Big "S" Standard and Premium Types are for moderate to heavy incontinence available in Medium 2s, 10s, 16s and Large 13s, vacuum packed and full print packaging. The Basic type is for light incontinence, and is available in Medium 2s and 10s and Large 2s and 8s vacuum packed, half-transparent packaging.

Dr. P Adult Diaper is available at all leading supermarkets and drugstores nationwide.

In pediatric diarrhea and pneumonia, it's either zinc or sink

ZINC is an essential mineral for all forms of life. It occurs in the body in greater amounts than any other mineral iron. But the significance of zinc in human nutrition and public health was recognized relatively recently. Clinical zinc deficiency in humans was first described in 1961, when the consumption of diets with low zinc bioavailability due to high phytic acid content (as found in plant-based foods) was associated with "adolescent nutritional dwarfism" in the Middle East. Since then, zinc insufficiency has been recognized by a number of experts as an important public health issue, especially in developing countries such as ours.

Numerous aspects of cellular metabolism are zinc-dependent. Zinc plays important roles in growth and development, the immune response, neurological functions and reproduction. On the cellular level, nearly 100 different enzymes depend on zinc for their ability to catalyze vital chemical reactions. Zinc plays an important role in the stability of protein and cell membrane structures. Loss of zinc from biological membranes increases their susceptibility to damage due to oxidation and impairs their function.

Because of zinc's varied and numerous functions, its deficiency, especially in severe form, may manifest in serious body malfunctioning. The symptoms of severe zinc deficiency include the slowing or cessation of growth and development, delayed sexual maturation, characteristic skin rashes, chronic and severe diarrhea, immune system deficiency, impaired wound healing, diminished appetite, night blindness and behavioral disturbances. More recently, it has become apparent that even mild zinc deficiency contributes to a number of health problems, especially common in children who live in developing countries.

In developing countries, the duration and severity of diarrhea are greatest among infants and young children with malnutrition and impaired immune status. These factors may be associated with zinc deficiency and should, therefore, respond quickly to zinc supplementation. To prove this point, a clinical study in India involving almost a thousand children ages 6 to 35 months suffering from acute diarrhea were given a daily supplementation of 20mg elemental zinc. Those given the daily zinc supplement had less severe diarrhea and recovered significantly faster compared to those not given zinc supplementation.

Aside from diarrhea, acute lower respiratory infections and pneumonia also wreak havoc among a great number of infants and children in developing countries. Its incidence, severity and mortality are also associated with malnutrition and reduced immunological competence. Because zinc deficiency results in impaired immunocompetence and zinc supplementation improves immune status, it was hypothesized that zinc supplementation could lower the incidence and severity of lower respiratory infections and pneumonia. This thinking was proven right in a clinical study, also done in India, wherein children ages 6 to 35 months who were given a daily zinc supplementation of 10mg elemental zinc for 6 months had a 45 percent less incidence of acute lower respiratory infections compared to those not given daily zinc supplementation. These findings suggest that interventions to improve zinc intake will improve the health and survival of children in developing countries.

The Recommended Daily Amount (RDA) for zinc is 5mg in infants, 10mg in children and 15mg in adults. Pregnant and breastfeeding females may need up to 20mg per day as iron supplementation usually given in pregnancy and lactation may decrease zinc absorption. Shellfish, beef and other red meats are rich sources of zinc. Nuts and legumes are relatively good plant sources. Zinc bioavailability (the fraction retained and used by the body) is relatively high in meat, eggs and seafoods because of the relative absence of compounds that inhibit zinc absorption whereas zinc in whole grain products and plant proteins is less bioavailable due to their relatively high content of phytic acid, a compound that inhibits zinc absorption.

And because zinc really matters, this very important mineral can now be taken as food supplement in pediatric drops and syrup form for infants and children. Prozinc pediatric drops and syrup, containing 10mg and 20mg respectively of elemental zinc, is now available at all Mercury Drug branches and major drugstores nationwide. Prozinc is a product guaranteed quality by Prohealth Pharma Philippines Inc. and is exclusively distributed by Metro Drug Inc.

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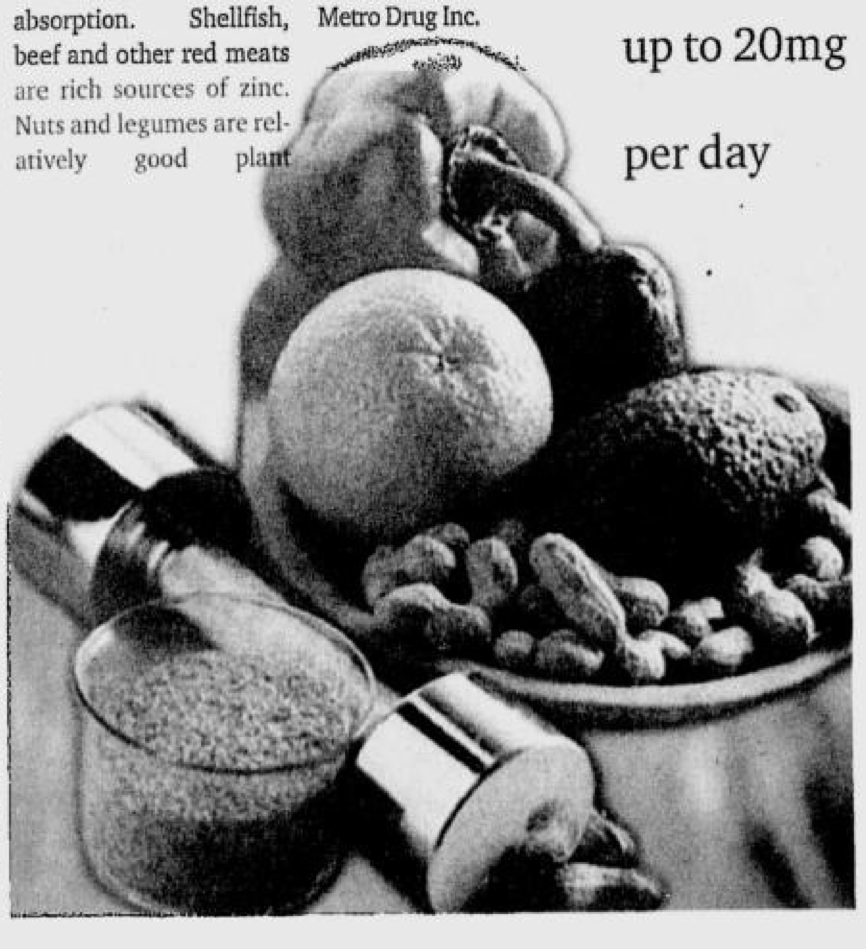


Is Papa malnourished? How to tell

ONE SUNDAY lunch with the family, 74-year-old Papa looked thinner. Although his children wanted to dismiss the observation, the truth was, Papa was a bit pale too, especially his mouth and lips.

Right before their eyes, Papa was showing signs of malnutrition. His children brought him to the doctor, fearing these signs could easily have serious health consequences.

When a caregiver is with your loved one everyday, it is possible not to notice the signs of malnutrition until the symptoms have become more evident in a matter of months.

To help determine if Papa or Mama is already showing the effects of their poor eating habits and poor nutritional intake, caregivers must watch out for the following physical signs: weight loss, muscle wasting (decrease in the size of muscle tissue), clothes now seem to have a looser fit, obesity, pale lips and mouth, cracks around the mouth, thinning hair, sunken eyes, confusion (but has not Alzheimer's disease), chronic infection (wounds take longer to heal), loss of balance, pressure ulcer (bed sore), presence of edema (swelling of the legs, feet due to excess water retention), and lack of energy, apathy.

The consequences of prolonged malnutrition are: the heart becomes weaker, immune system is less able to protect against infection, intestines are less able to absorb the nutrients that are ingested, delayed healing of wounds, increased risk of pressure sores, loss of muscle strength, and increased complications after surgery (e.g. sepsis, wound infection, pneumonia).

It pays to be suspicious of loved ones who show weight loss, display fatigue and most of the other signs of malnutrition so you can help them gain back a healthier life.

Help your senior loved ones regain a healthier life. Heed the signs of malnutrition and consult your doctor about Ensure-the complete and balanced oral meal replacement. Recently cited as the Outstanding Adult Powdered Milk Brand in the 2003 Annual Asia-Pacific Excellence Awards,. Ensure supplies the body with complete and balanced amount of protein, carbohydrates and fats and provides other essential nutrients like vitamins and minerals an aging person needs.

Go on a 60-minute vacation even during the rainy season

THIS RAINY season, make a quick and blissful escape from the horrendous traffic, the rainy day blues and the floodwaters. Take a short drive to Body Bliss Spa, Facial and Wellness Center in Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills and warm up with its unique relaxation therapies such as the Aroma Stone and Crystal Massage, Thai Yoga Massage and authentic Chinese Reflexology. Unwind in the sauna, and the warm waters of your own private Jacuzzi tub. Or relax with your significant other in its Couple's room.

Indulge in Body Bliss' Aroma Stone and Crystal Massage which uses hot and cold stones and crystals to melt away your stress and aches. This unique relaxation therapy is based on the healing traditions of the Native Americans, Indians and Tibetans.

Thai Yoga Massage is authentic Thai Massage as practiced in Bangkok, Thailand. Experts claim that Thai Yoga massage works more deeply and effectively on the body than the more surface-oriented European or Swedish technique.

Want a massage technique that not only soothes your tired body, but is also scientifically proven to help restore over-all internal balance or homeostasis? Then Body Bliss' Authentic Chinese Reflexology is for you.

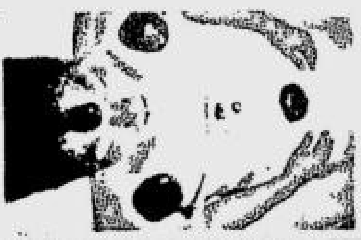
Body Bliss' one-hour reflexology massage covers the entire body, while the 45-minute version focuses on the hands and feet.

For the ultimate pampering and skin renewal, Body Bliss offers body scrubs and wraps. These will clear your pores of dead skin cells, help your skin release toxins and absorb any nutrients you may apply. Body Bliss' Dead Sea Salt Aromatic Salt Glow uses genuine Dead Sea salt, with its high concentration of minerals—magnesium, bromides, iodine, calcium and potassium, that promote healing and relief of muscle aches. It is a grainy scrub which helps improve your skin texture, boosts circulation and nourishes, giving your skin a real glow at the end of the treatment. The Milk and Honey Bath is a nourishing and softening wrap that ends with a luxurious soak in a milk-filled Jacuzzi tub. Feel like royalty with the Indonesian Lulur Scrub and Rose Petal Bath—a sensual delight that originated in the royal palaces of Java. The Lulur scrub exfoliates your skin using a blend of spices and yoghurt and ends with a fragrant rose petal bath that's pure bliss.

Body Bliss also offers packages such as the two-hour Great Escape (one hour massage and body scrub in a private suite with Jacuzzi) starting at P1,600, at substantial savings from the regular rates. Prewedding and spa party packages, and gift certificates are also available.

For wellness, Body Bliss offers yoga classes in the mornings.

Body Bliss Spa is located at the 2nd Floor, Equitable PCIBank Building 1, Ortigas Avenue corner Roosevelt Streets, Greenhills, San Juan (in front of Jollibee Ortigas Avenue and Mitsubishi Diamond Motors). For inquiries and reservations, call 724-4901 or 724-4904.



Search on for Safeguard's 2003 MedTechs ng Kinabukasan scholars

THE NATIONWIDE search is on for this year's Handog ng Safeguard... MedTechs ng Kinabukasan scholars, a joint project of Procter & Gamble and the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (Pamet).

Now on its 14th year, the program has been granting three-year scholarships to 15 deserving but underprivileged medical technology sophomores every year and has since produced almost a hundred MedTech graduates.

The scholarship program, which is Safeguard's way of giving back something to the community that has remained loyal to the brand, aims to support the education of deserving students who will contribute to the upliftment and maintenance of public health in their communities.

Application forms may be requested from deans' offices of colleges and universities nationwide. Deadline for submission of application forms to school deans is on Aug. 8.

To qualify for the scholarship program, an applicant must currently be a Medical Technology or an Associate in Health and Science Education sophomore planning to take up Med.Tech for school year 2003-2004.

The scholarship grant will be for a period of three years and will cover free tuition and laboratory fees, miscellaneous school fees, and book allowance.

For more details, visit your dean's office or call 894-3955 or 1800-18888008 (toll free).

Got your dose of Isoflavones lately?

PERHAPS, one of the biggest nutrition news these days revolve around a group of phytonutrients known to hinder the growth of cancer. They come by the name of Isoflavones, which are currently causing a lot of stir in nutrition and cancer research. Phytonutrients are neither vitamins and minerals, but several population-based studies show a strong correlation between consumption of Isoflavones-rich soya and a reduced risk of breast and endometrial cancer.

Isoflavones in your diet gives far-reaching benefits above and beyond cancer prevention. They can also increase bone-density in women, reduce menopausal hot flashes and cardiovascular risks. Isoflavone sources include fruits, vegetables, legumes, whole grains, nuts, seeds, herbs and spices. They are also found in chick peas and legumes. Soy and its by-products, however, have the most concentrated amount of Isoflavones, found mostly in its hypocotyls (the part of the seeding below the seed leaves).

Soybeans contain three types of Isoflavones, which act in 4 distinct ways: as estrogen and antiestrogens, as antioxidants, as immune enhancers and as cancer-enzyme inhibitors. As cancer risk reducers, Isoflavones inhibit the activity of tyrosine kinase, an enzyme that promotes cancer cell growth. Isoflavones are fairly stable, so under normal home cooking, they are not destroyed.

Just when can one get his daily dose of Isoflavones? The possibilities are endless. Miso soup is a good source and so are soy hotdogs, soy burgers and soy yogurts. Soy flour, soymilk, tofu and *taho* are all excellent sources of Isoflavones. Likewise, Isoflavones are found in quality soy sauce like Datu Puti Soy Sauce, which is made from natural soy beans. It is perfect for dipping and cooking, with a deep-seeping action that permeates food with flavor and aroma.

Remember that optimum intake of Isoflavones to prevent or treat diseases needs further study. At this time, overall health benefits of Isoflavones as well as other phytonutrients are best met by eating a varied diet from all food groups, built upon a foundation of one serving of soyfood with plenty of whole grains, fruits, vegetables and other legumes each day.

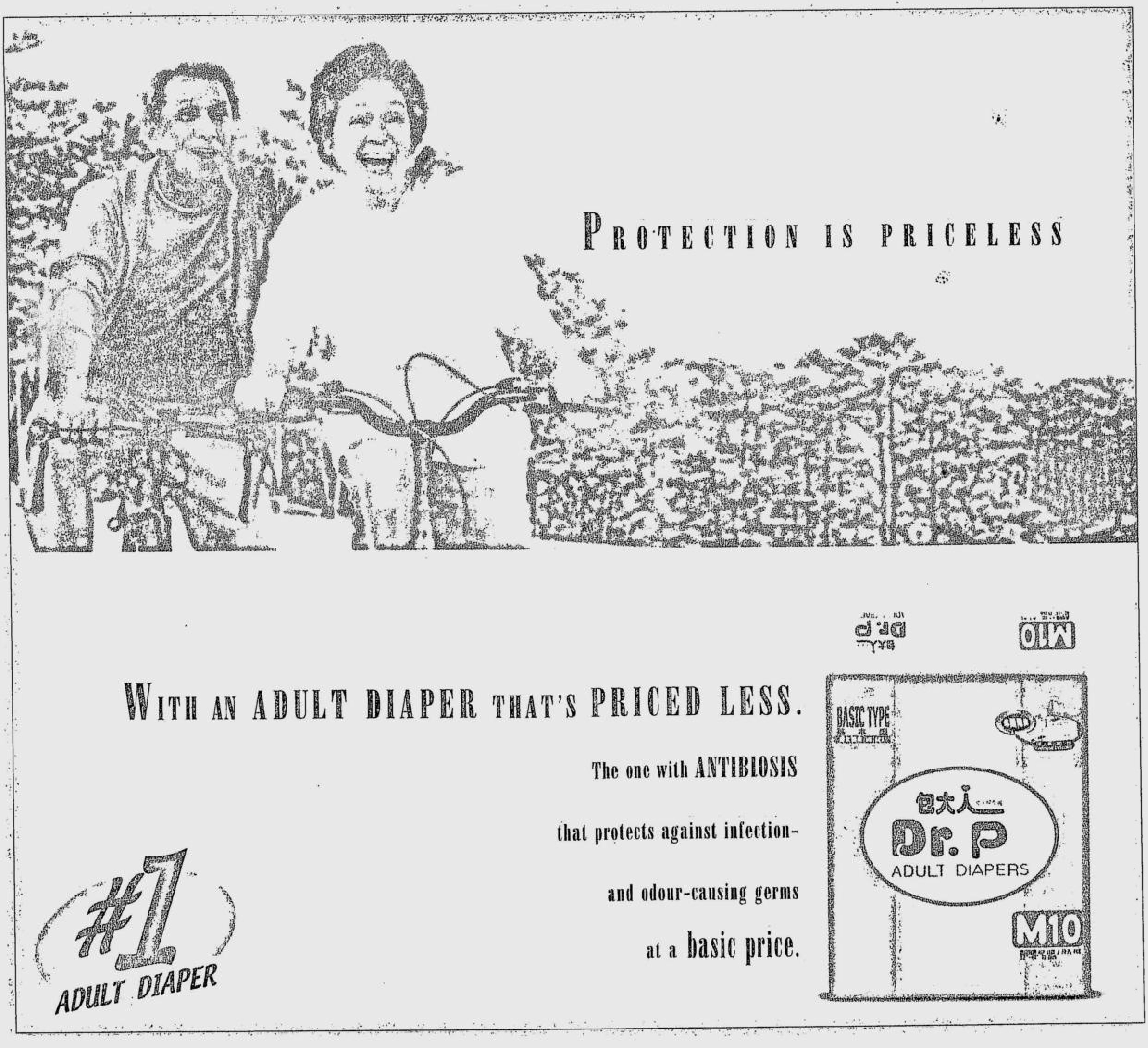
COOL OFF THE PEDIALITE WAY

In hot and humid weather, children perspire more, therefore losing more body fluids. They need to be rehydrated with Pedialite Mild 30—the No. 1 ready-to-drink refreshing drink for children that's recommended by pediatricians to prevent dehydration. Dehydration causes fluid or electrolyte loss that can create adverse effects on young children. Pedialite Mild 30 is available in cool apple, strawberry and grape flavors and comes in convenient ready-to-drink bottles.

MILD 30
MILD 30
MILD 30

MERCURY DRUG'S FREE CLINIC

Patients of all ages trooped to La Paz Plaza to avail themselves of Mercury Drug's Operation Bigay Lunas free medical consultations and medicines. Shown, from left, are Alvin Miranda, GSK overall coordinator for Operation Bigay Lunas, Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, Teresita Sumayo, Mercury Drug business manager for West Visayas, Francis Cruz of the Mayor's Office, engineer Romeo Paloma, executive secretary, Francis Te, city administrator, and Dr. Nick Baronda, city health officer.


PROTECTION IS PRICELESS

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and odour-causing germs
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Healthy eating tips for mama's con familias

YOU better believe it. Healthy eating can readily be one of life's greatest pleasures. But why do we still fall short of these pleasures? A lot of moms on the go will aver that one of the biggest problems is a lack of time. Another concern is the deficiency of practical and nutritious food choices available in the market. Purefoods Carne Norte Guisado con Patatas helps you make healthy eating like second nature with some practical tips for you and your family.

Learn the truth about kids and fat

Avoiding fat? There is no need to fear fat or to completely avoid it - we need some in our diets. We all need some fat in our diets, most especially children. Fat is essential for children's growth and development. Too little fat in a child's diet may actual stunt their growth and development. Fat also helps us to absorb many vitamins - A,B,E, and K. Purefoods Carne Norte Guisado con Patatas has the right balance of meat and fiber to address the necessary nutritional requirements of kids. They can actually enjoy the delicately shredded premium beef meats with the wholesome amount of fat and still maintain the healthy amount of fiber through the potatoes and veggies.

Never run on empty

Keep your body fueled with the energy you need to make it through the day. Enjoy nutritious between meal snacks. Three smaller meals plus snacks is the best way to energize your mind and body - and that helps you to keep up the pace with your kids. Eating every 3 to 4 hours can also help control the late night munchies. You should likewise base meals and snacks on vegetables, fruits and grains with some protein and a moderate amount of fat. Munch on mini sandwiches of Purefoods Carne Norte Guisado con Patatas for a quick boost.

Don't skip breakfast to lose weight

Eat breakfast - it's a fatigue-fighter for your body and a wake-up call for your brain. Eating breakfast decreases the chances of overeating later in the day and actually boosts your metabolism - letting you burn more calories, more efficiently.

Water it down

Drink plenty of water and some other non-caffeinated fluids like non-fat milk or juice. These will keep your body properly hydrated and healthy. Skin the coffee sometimes. Caffeine can cause stress-like side effects and dehydrate you over time, leaving you with a fatigued feeling.

Eat at the right time and for the right reasons

Don't eat because you are stressed or because the kids are eating. Make a note of the kinds of comfort foods you crave and look for more nutritious choices. It may also be wise to eat most of your food choices during the day instead of late evening. It is during daytime when your body needs energy the most.

Power up with potatoes

Get your kids (and your whole family) into the habit of eating vegetables, everyday. Purefoods Carne Norte Guisado con Patatas makes them say "Yes, please" to veggies.

Eating 5 to 10 servings of vegetables and fruit per day as part of a healthy diet can shoo away some serious diseases? Veggies can power you with essential vitamins and minerals each day and actually help reduce your risk of cancer, heart disease and stroke.

Boost your pasta sauce with Purefoods Carne Norte Guisado con Patatas. Just add veggies like carrots, red pepper and tomato sauce and puree it altogether - your kids will never know that it's there.

You may try growing a vegetable garden with your kids - it might make them more interested in eating the veggies such as potatoes that are found in Purefoods Carne Norte Guisado con Patatas. Convince them that the potatoes that they love to eat as French Fries are just as nutritious and yummy as the ones you find in every can of Purefoods Carne Norte Guisado con Patatas.